SUZUKA

Kouji Seo

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A Note from the Author

Pretty much everybody alive has suffered from heartbreak at least once or twice. I once confessed my love to a girl on New Year's Eve, only to be turned down on the spot. The next thing I knew they were ringing the New Year's bell...and it suddenly started snowing. My body and heart both went stone cold. It was the worst New Year's ever! Well, looking back, it doesn't seem so bad.

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SUZUKA

KOUJI SEO

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2

Kouji Seo

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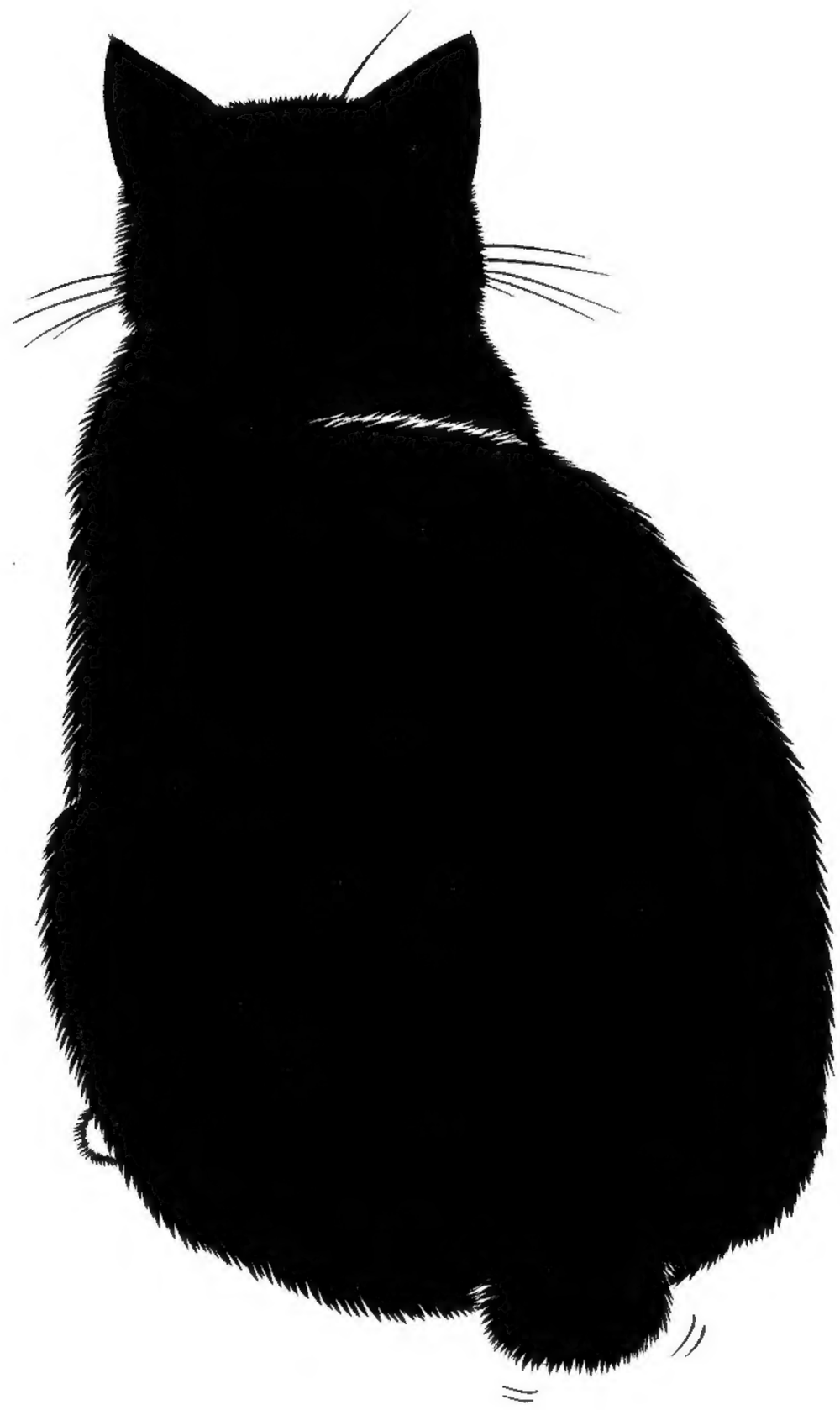


SUZUKA

#5 A Glimpse

HMM, A FITNESS TEST, HUH...HEH, HEH, I'M GONNA KICK SOME ASS.

ONCE YOU'RE DONE CALCULATING YOUR PARTNER'S TIME.

MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ACTIVITY. DON'T DAWDLE.

YOU'LL FORM INTO PAIRS AND RECORD EACH OTHER'S SCORES.

WHAT ARE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT?

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS.

ACTUALLY, I GET REALLY INTO PE.

OKAY, WHATEVER! LET'S GO DO THE SIDE TO SIDE JUMP FIRST. I DOUBT THERE'S A LINE FOR THAT ONE.

AH, WAIT! THERE'S NO LINE FOR THE STANDING JUMP EITHER.

I WAS THE STRONGEST GUY IN MY JUNIOR HIGH CLASS!

GOD, DON'T ACT SO SUR-PRISED!

HUH?

SCREW THE STANDING JUMP...

H-HEY, DON'T GET ANY IDEAS...

ITTO-THWUP

OH, I SEE HOW IT IS...

OKAY, OKAY...

UMMM.

I'LL RUB

I'LL RUB

YOUR SHOULDERS ARE REALLY TENSE, SAKURAI-SAN.

WAIT, HATTORI!

HAT-TORI-KUN.

HEY, SUZUKA-CHAN! YOU TEAMED UP WITH SAKURAI-SAN, HUH?

WHY DON'T ALL FOUR OF US GO THROUGH THE EVENTS TOGETHER.

Y-

YEAH, ME TOO.

...THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

.....

I GET TO BE WITH AKITSUKI-KUN...

UH, S-SURE, WHATEVER...

THIS'LL BE AWESOME, RIGHT, YAMATO?

WHAT? WHY DON'T WE STAND?

W-WELL, GO AHEAD, SUZUKA-CHAN.

WE'LL JUST SIT DOWN AND WATCH.

OKAY.

OUCH.

YANK

JUST SIT DOWN!

FWAHHHH

FLUTTER

YOU'RE AMAZING, ASAHINA-SAN!

.....

SEE? NOW AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU'RE SITTING DOWN?

ALL RIGHT, GUYS! WATCH THIS! I'LL PUT ASAHINA TO SHAME!

GO, YAMATO! ♡

コキッ CRACK

コキッ CRACK

UH...

I'M TOO EMBARRASSED TO GO RIGHT AFTER THAT PERFORMANCE, ASAHINA-SAN. WHY DON'T YOU GO NEXT, AKITSUKI-KUN?

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, SAKURAI-SAN!

JUST WATCH!

I WAS NUMBER ONE BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH!

YOU SOUND PRETTY CONFIDENT.

GO FOR IT, AKITSUKI-KUN...

HUH... ME?

ガタ STEP

SEVENTY-TWO POINT FIVE CENTIMETERS.

75

70

NOT BAD EH?

HOW ABOUT THAT?

HUH? WHAT?

CLAP パチ パチ CLAP

NICE...

.....

FWAHHH

WHAT WERE YOU STARING AT?

HUH? WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HUH? EIGHTY-FOUR CENTI-METERS?

WELL, SUZUKA-CHAN'S JUMP WAS EIGHTY-FOUR CENTIMETERS HIGH, SO I WAS EXPECTING A LITTLE MORE FROM YOU.

WELL, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH, SO WE CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT EVENT.

HEY, DON'T MAKE FUN OF MY HOMETOWN!

DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU...I'M SURE THAT'S CONSIDERED A TOP-NOTCH PERFORMANCE OUT IN THE BOONIES.

SLAP

WOW, HATTORI-KUN!

HMM...

YES! I TIED SUZUKA-CHAN!

WHOA... EIGHTY-FOUR CENTI-METERS?

85

80

75

70

L-LET'S MOVE ON. I'LL BEAT YOU GUYS ON THIS ONE. I'VE GOT A REALLY STRONG GRIP.

WHAT-EVER.

I-I'M SURE YOU WILL, AKITSUKI-KUN.

.....

AH!

カーン
DING
コーン
DONG
キーコーン
DING DONG
ガーン
キーン...
WAH...
STING
ピー
ピー
ピー

SHUT UP! GO BACK TO THE BOONIES!

WHAT-EVER.

THERE ARE TONS OF GUYS IN THIS SCHOOL WHO'RE WAY BETTER ATHLETES THAN I AM.

IF I JOINED A TEAM, I'D JUST END UP MAKING AN ASS OF MYSELF.

YEAH, AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY TIME TO PICK UP CHICKS.

NEXT UP IS THE FIFTY-METER DASH.

THINK YOU'LL WIN THIS ONE, YAMATO-KUN?

HUH?

ARE YOU OKAY, AKITSUKI-KUN?

YOU FINALLY READY TO THROW IN THE TOWEL?

.....

...NO WAY.

I'VE ALWAYS SUCKED AT THIS EVENT.

YOU HAVE?

YEAH.

I TOOK FIRST PLACE BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BUT...

MY JUNIOR HIGH DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A TRACK TEAM, SO WE JUST ROUNDED UP A GROUP OF FOUR GUYS.

2

3

1

THEN, IN JUNIOR HIGH, I ENTERED THIS CITY-WIDE RELAY COMPETITION.

WE CAME IN LAST. WE WERE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF THE CITY.

AND WHAT HAPPENED?

WOO

GET READY FOR THE NEXT RACE.

WOO

SEVEN POINT THREE ONE SECONDS.

WOO

YOU'RE SO SLOW, DUDE.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU JOINED THE BASEBALL TEAM? HOW LAME.

I HAVEN'T RUN A FIFTY-METER DASH SINCE.

TO HELL WITH THAT. WHO'S GONNA CALCULATE MY TIME?

JUST GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT.

MAYBE I'LL JUST DITCH THE REST OF THIS CLASS.

OH, COME ON. I'M SURE GRAMPS WILL FIND A WAY TO MAKE THIS INTERESTING.

I ALMOST DON'T EVEN WANNA WATCH.

カチャ・ CLICK

カチャ CLICK

カチャ CLICK

ハァ SIGH.

REALLY? WELL, THAT SHOULD MAKE THINGS EVEN MORE INTERESTING.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S RACING AGAINST KOBAYAKAWA-KUN. THAT GUY'S HERE ON A TRACK SCHOLARSHIP.

ALL RIGHT, GET IN POSITION.

YES, SIR!

ガチャ CLICK

WOBBLE フラ〜

OKAY.

HE PROBABLY FIGURED HE COULD GET AN EXTRA INCH THAT WAY.

WHAT AN IDIOT.

LOOKS LIKE YAMATO-KUN IS GONNA TRY A TWO-FOOTED LAUNCH.

YEP, LOOKS LIKE IT.

IF I LAUNCH USING BOTH FEET, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP A LITTLE SPEED...

YEAH... THAT'LL WORK.

WAH!

SHWIPA!

FWUP

ON YOUR MARKS...

HANG IN THERE, AKITSUKI-KUN!

WOO

WOO

WHY THE HECK IS EVERYBODY WATCHING?

GO AWAY, YOU ASSHOLES.

WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL...

SHIT...

...GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!

. . . . !

N-NO WAY!

FWOOSH

KOBAYAKAWA-KUN GOT A LATE START!

ピー
BEEP!

FWOOSH

WAH!
I WON!

HUH?

DID YOU DO TRACK IN JUNIOR HIGH?

HUH?

DUDE, THAT WAS AMAZING!

WHOOSH

UH... IS THAT GOOD?

ハァ ハァ
PANT PANT

WHA—? FIVE POINT NINE THREE SECONDS?

NO WAY! WITH SPEED LIKE THAT, HE SHOULD BE ON THE BASEBALL TEAM.

YOU SHOULD BE ON THE TRACK TEAM!

N-NO...

HAVE YOU JOINED A TEAM YET?

Y-YOU KNEW?

SEE? I TOLD YOU IT'D GET INTEREST-ING.

WOW!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT RELAY HE WAS TALKING ABOUT?

THE OTHER GUYS PROBABLY SLOWED HIM DOWN.

NOT EXACTLY... BUT WHEN WE WERE KIDS, WE USED TO GET IN TROUBLE ALL THE TIME, AND WE'D END UP RUNNING AWAY. HE WAS ALWAYS FASTER THAN ME.

I CAN NEVER BREAK SIX SECONDS.

YOU'RE SO FAST, AKITSUKI-KUN!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINALLY PROVEN HIMSELF.

THEY KEPT HIM ON THE BENCH FOR MOST OF THE SEASON WHEN HE WAS ON THE BASEBALL TEAM.

DID YOU SEE HOW FAST I RAN?

HEY, ASAHINA!

...!

THUMP

THUMP

COME ON, SAKURAI-SAN. WE STILL HAVE TO RUN.

HUH? W-WAIT A SEC, ASAHINA-SAN.

I DID "OKAY"? IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?

HUH?

YEAH, YOU DID OKAY, I GUESS.

I SAID WAIT, ASAHINA-SAN.

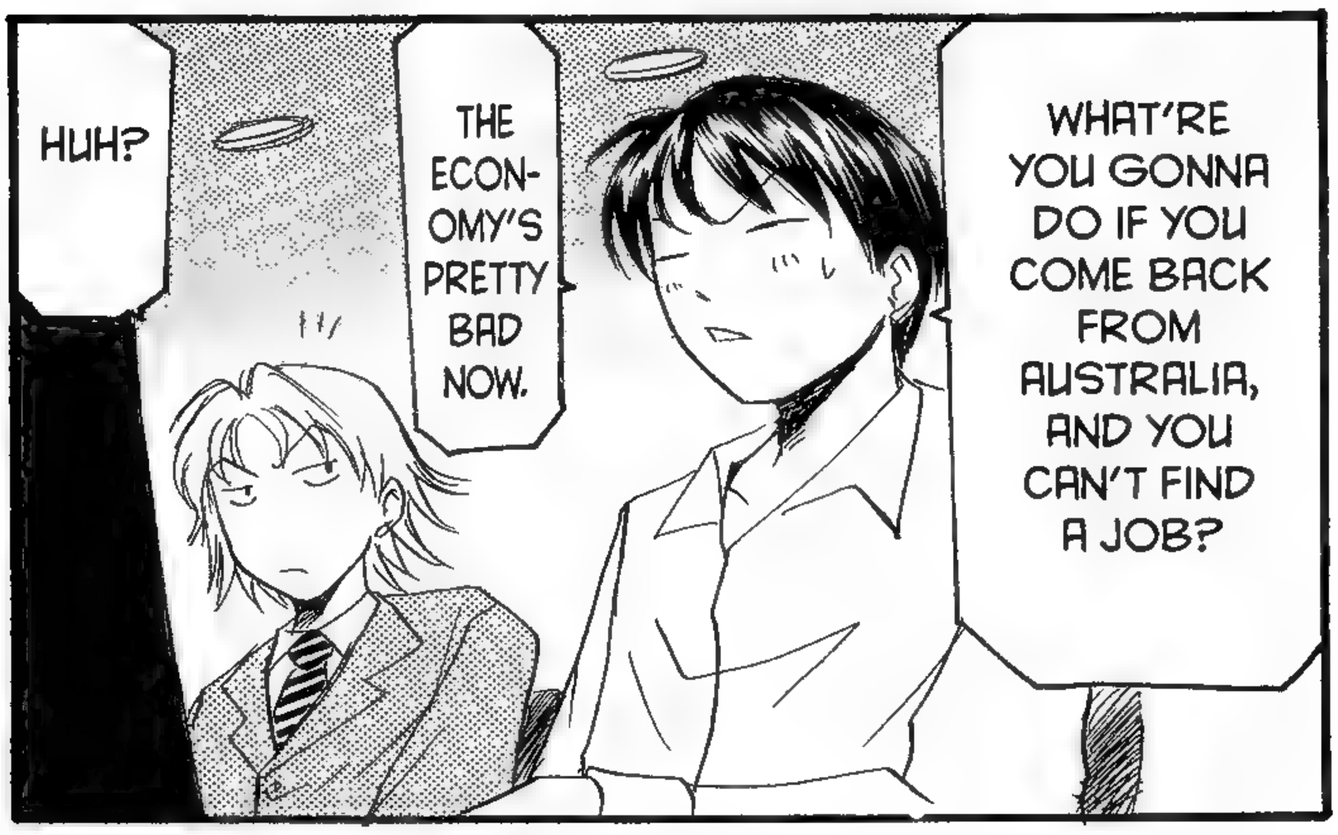
IT- IT'S NOT LIKE THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING FOR...

DON'T WORRY, MAN. YOU JUST SCORED SOME POINTS. TRUST ME.

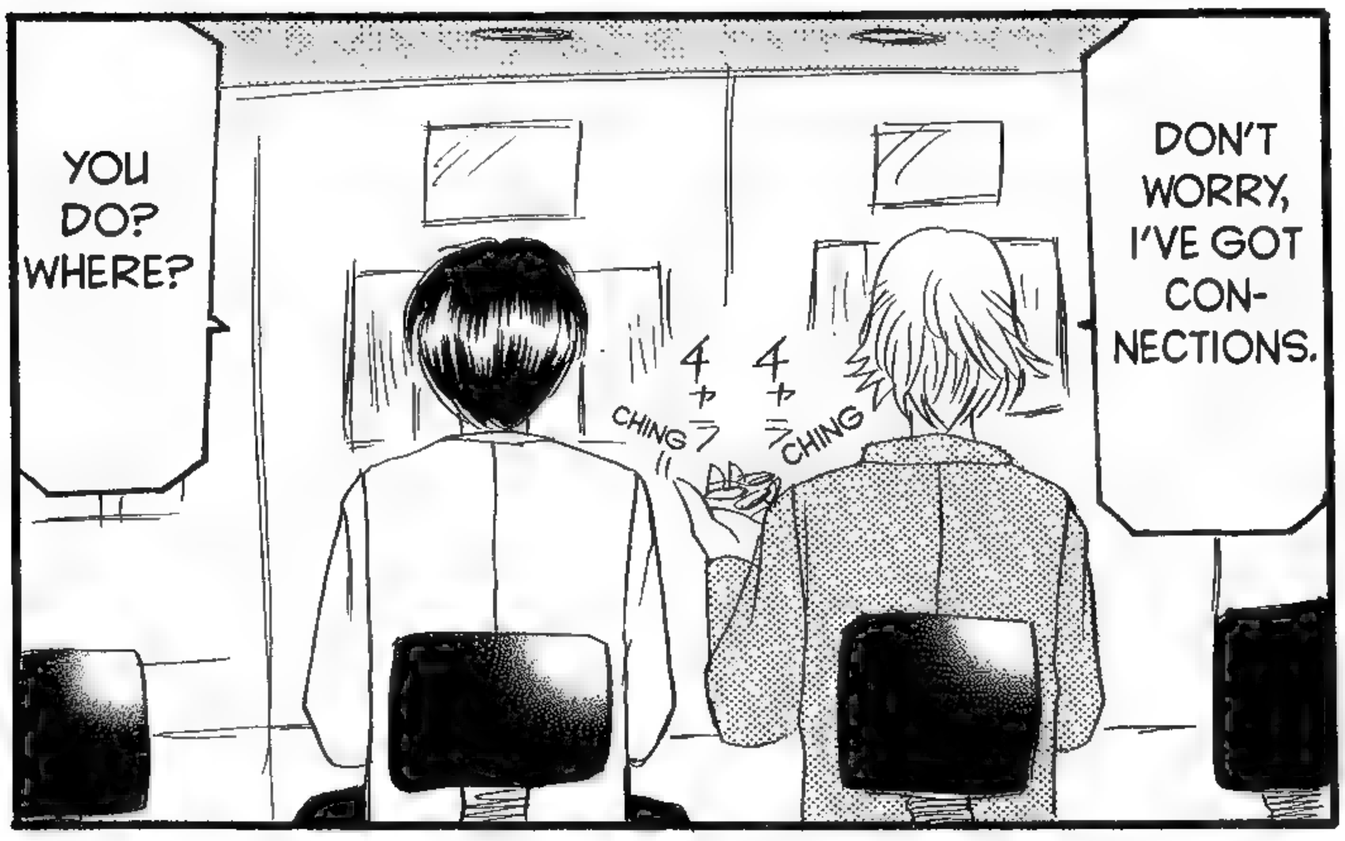
MAYBE NOW SHE'LL SEE ME IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.

BUT...

ASAHINA.



SUZUKA
FOUR-PANEL THEATER
NUMBER FIVE
THE OPTIMIST



ゲホッ
COUGH
ゲホッ
COUGH
MMM!
THUNK
THUNK
ガッ
ガッ
CHOMP
CHOMP
HYUU.
SURE IS A NICE DAY TODAY.
HUH?
ASAHIYU BATHS
I...I DON'T... UM...I WAS JUST GONNA SAY...
WHY DO YOU KEEP STARING AT ME? IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT.
HUH?

Suzuka

#6 A Spring Storm

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? SUZUKA-CHAN IS IN LOVE WITH YOU, DUDE.

IDIOT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HUH?

EVEN I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW FAST YOU RAN.

I TOLD YOU, DUDE. YOU PICKED UP SOME POINTS WHEN YOU WON THAT RACE THE OTHER DAY.

THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU LIKE A CHICK IN YOUR CLASS, YOU STARE AT HER, DON'T YOU?

Y-YEAH, I GUESS SO.

WELL, THAT MEANS THAT IT WAS THE THREE OTHER GUYS WHO LOST THE RACE.

DUH.

YEAH, BUT WHEN I DID THAT RELAY BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, WE CAME IN LAST.

THE TEAM THAT TOOK FIRST HAD ALREADY FINISHED BEFORE I EVEN GOT TO RUN.

BUT SEE, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN STARED AT LIKE THAT, SO YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T QUITE SEE IT.

YOU'RE SO LUCKY.

AND, WHEN SUZUKA-CHAN SAW YOU RUN LIKE THAT, SHE TOOK NOTICE.

WELL, ANYWAY... YOU'RE FAST, DUDE.

WELL, LOVE IS A MYSTERIOUS THING!

CLINK

CLINK

I MEAN, WOULD SHE REALLY FALL FOR ME BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

YEAH?

HMM—?

SMOOCH.

HEY, YASU-NOBU.

. . . . . .

YOU THINK?

UH...

...SURE IS A NICE DAY TODAY.

BEGIN BY SOLVING...

SCRIBBLE

SCRIBBLE

SCRIBBLE

AND THIS IS HOW WE APPLY THE FORMULA.

TSSS

TSSS

TSSS

TSSS

TSSS

TSSS

YEAH, WHATEVER, HATTORI.

ASAHINA IN LOVE WITH ME...?

SHE'S STARING AT ME AGAIN.

HUH?

MAYBE HE'S RIGHT.

THUMP ドキ

THUMP ドキ

THUMP ドキ

M-

SHIT, I DIDN'T BRING AN UMBRELLA.

IT'S POUR-ING.

RATTLE

RATTLE

DONG

TSSS

DING

COULD ASAHINA BE IN LOVE WITH ME?

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

I DON'T WANNA GET SOAKED ON THE WAY HOME.

O-OH, WELL... I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHARE HERS.

. . . . . .

SUZUKA!

H-HEY, ASAHINA...

OH YEAH... ASAHINA ALWAYS CARRIES AN UMBRELLA, DOESN'T SHE?

WE'D BETTER HURRY OR WE'LL GET YELLED AT AGAIN.

H-HEY... CAN I USE YOUR UMBR-

OH, SO WE'RE MEETING IN THE GYM?

PRACTICE IS RAINED OUT, SO WE'RE DOING WEIGHT TRAINING INSTEAD.

CHATTER

CHATTER

1-B

UM...

AKITSUKI-KUN.

HONOKA-CHAN.

O-OH, WELL...

I GUESS SHE'S BUSY...

UH...

YEAH...

D-DID YOU FORGET YOUR UMBRELLA?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO CATCH COLD AGAIN.

UM, IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN SHARE MINE.

UM...

UH...

...?

UH, ACTUALLY... I'M SUPPOSED TO HOOK UP WITH HATTORI!

OH, THEN I'LL WAIT FOR HIM WITH YOU.

UH, THAT'S OKAY. ACUTALLY, IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT. I'LL JUST TALK TO HIM TOMORROW.

THANK GOD!

YOU ROCK, SAKURAI!

AH! YOU'VE GOT AN UMBRELLA!

HUH?

WELL, I'M SUPPOSED TO GO TO A DATING PARTY AFTER SCHOOL, BUT I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA.

HUH? WHAT IS THAT? A HAMSTER?

IT'S A CAT.

OH.

WH- WHAT'S WITH YOU, HATTORI-KUN?

B-BUT...

AKITSUKI-KUN WAS-

OKAY, WELL, LET ME SHARE YOUR LITTLE KITTY UMBRELLA JUST UNTIL WE GET TO THE STATION.

I DON'T WANNA SHOW UP TOTALLY SOAKED. IT'LL RUIN MY HAIR.

OKAY?

HUH?

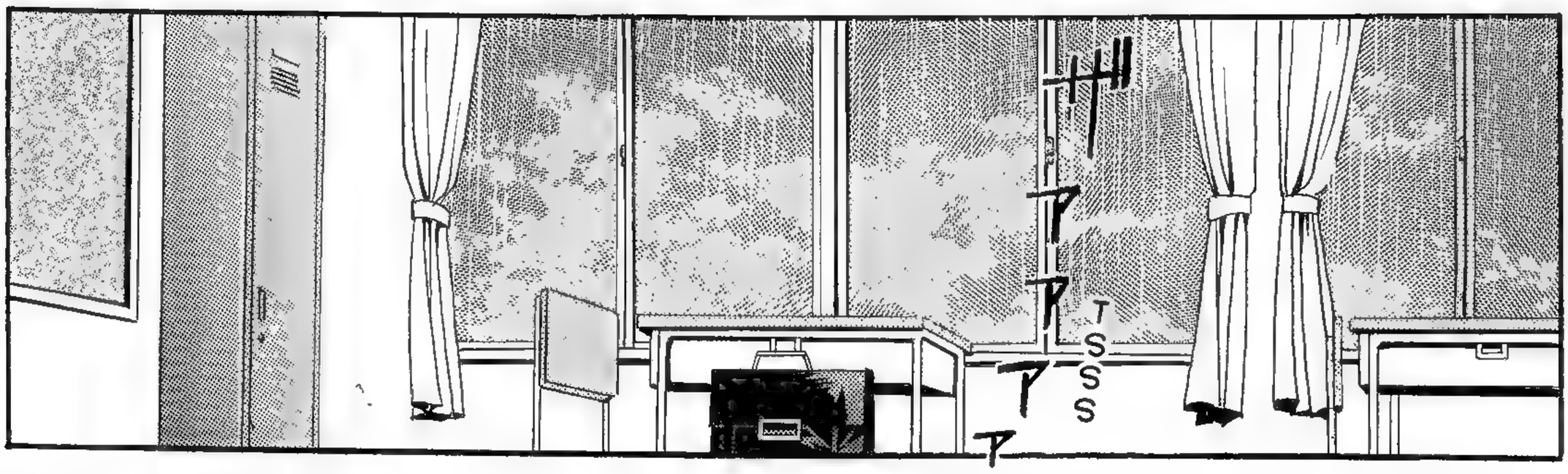
WHAT?

OKAY.

SORRY, YAMATO, BUT I GOTTA DO THIS!

PHEW

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
UH... B-BUT...



ASAHINA...
NICE DAY...
...MY ASS.

I WON-DER...
...WHAT TIME SHE'LL FINISH.

TSSS

11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

SIGH.

WHAT AM I DOING?

HER BOOBS AND HER THIGHS...

SHE'S PERFECT THE WAY SHE IS NOW.

TSSS

RATTLE

HOW MUCH TIME CAN SHE SPEND LIFTING WEIGHTS?

IS SHE TRYING TO GET BUFF OR SOME-THING?

RATTLE

GOD, WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING? I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!

BONK

WHISPER

WHISPER

BONK

FORGET THIS! I'M GOING HOME!

I'M NOT GONNA WAIT AROUND HERE LIKE SOME ASSHOLE!

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

"HEY, ASAHINA...I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA. CAN I SHARE YOURS? IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THAT'S COOL." YEAH, THAT'D WORK.

WH-WHAT WOULD I SAY TO HER ANYWAY?

PLUP

MAN...

IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY, AND I'M WAITING TO SEE IF I GET ANYTHING.

MAYBE I'LL JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.

SHOCK

YAMATO-KUN.

ASAHINA!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

I-I COULDN'T GET MY LOCKER OPEN.

LOOKS PRETTY OPEN TO ME.

UH, YEAH... IT JUST OPENED.

. . . . . .

WHAT THE HELL AM I SAYING?

DID YOU FORGET TO BRING AN UMBRELLA?

Y-YEAH, ACTUALLY, I DID FORGET MY UMBRELLA. DO YOU THINK I COULD SHARE YOURS? IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THAT'S COOL...

WANNA SHARE MINE?

REALLY?

WHA—?

C-COOL, THANKS.

I'LL HOLD THE UMBRELLA.

SURE.

I DON'T MIND.

OKAY.

HA TA TA TA TSSS

HII

TSSS

.....

.....

S-
SURE
IS...

...WINDY.

GUESS
IT'S
A SPRING
STORM.

HII

TSSSTP

.....

SO
MAYBE
TOMORROW
IT'LL
WARM
UP.

.....

.....

YEAH.

YEAH.

SHE MUST BE IN A BAD MOOD.

HATTORI IS SO FULL OF IT.

HUH?

...YAMATO-KUN...

AND, WHEN SUZUKA-CHAN SAW YOU RUN LIKE THAT, SHE TOOK NOTICE.

YOU'RE... REALLY FAST.

Y-YEAH, I GUESS.

I LOOKED PRETTY COOL, DIDN'T I?

...

...YEAH.

コクッ

NOD

HUH?

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

AH...

ASAHINA!

ヨロ

WOBBLE

KYA!

FWAHHH

……
!!
TSSS

AH...

PLUP

AH...

S-SORRY... THE UMBRELLA JUST–

SQUEEZE

...EH?

WHAT?

TSSSS

M-TA-SAN (AGE 34) EXCELS AT SPORTS.
MY HOUSE IS FALLING APART.
I HAVEN'T EVEN PAID OFF THE MORT-GAGE YET.
BUT HE CAN ALSO BE VERY FORGETFUL.

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER SIX

MR. FORGETFUL

THAT WHOLE SCENE WAS ACTUALLY SOMETHING THAT M-TA-SAN CAME UP WITH THE WEEK BEFORE.
EXCELLENT.
HE'S VERY IMPRESSED WITH HIS WORK.

UH, UM... ASAHINA?

TSSS...

#7 The Secret

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ザ

TSSS

ザ

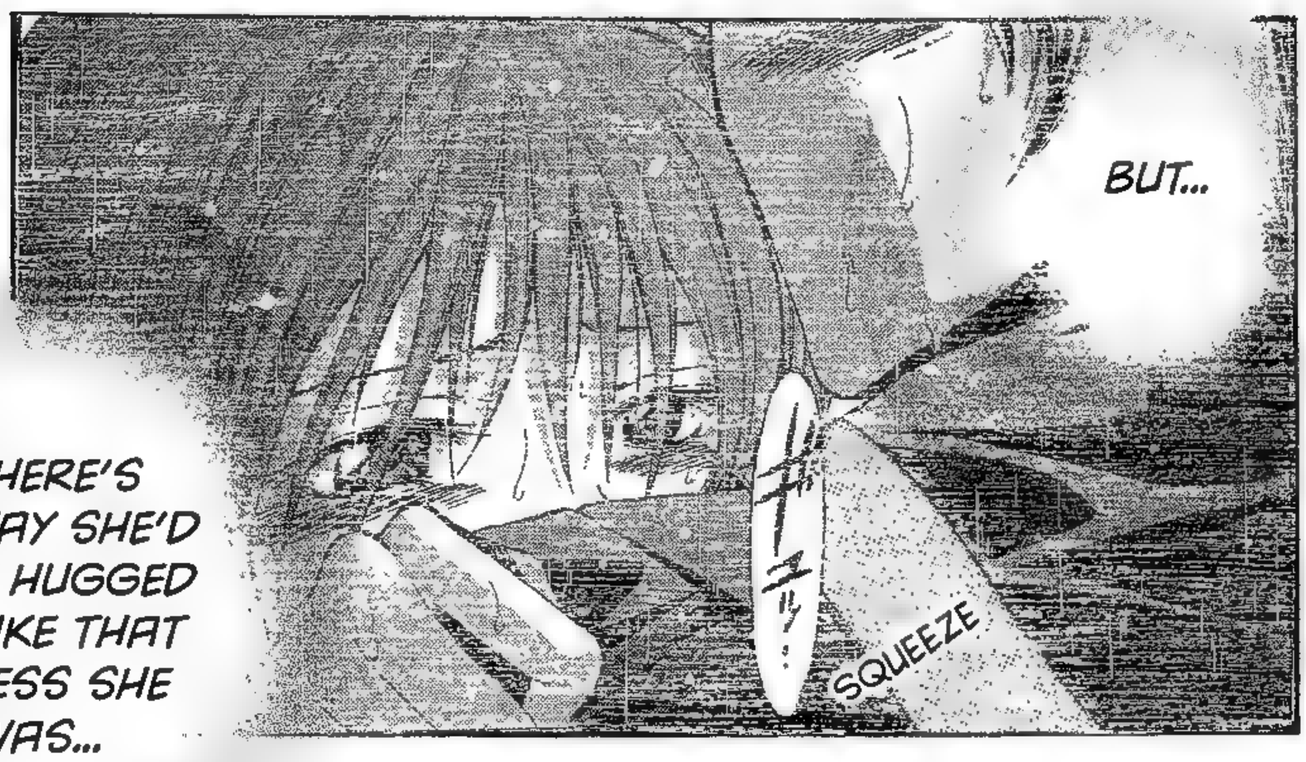
ザ

Suzuka

301

NHK 3.5

YAMATO AKITSUKI



...THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D HAVE HUGGED ME LIKE THAT UNLESS SHE WAS...

SHE HAS SUCH A TINY LITTLE WAIST.

SHE DIDN'T FEEL THAT BUFF CONSIDER-ING ALL THAT WEIGHT TRAINING SHE DOES.

WHOOPIE!

ROLL

ROLL

AND HER HAIR SMELLED SO GOOD.

YAHOO!

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

OOF.

THUNK

HEY, YAMATO-KUN! GO DOWN AND REFILL THE BOILER.

AH. OKAY.

AH, SUZUKA-ASAHINA...

BATH

THAT'LL BE OUR LITTLE SECRET.

ASAHINA AND ME UNDER THE SAME UMBRELLA.

HEY, YAMATO-KUN.

MEOW.

BATH

YUUKA-SAN.

WHAT'RE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?

SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN AT SCHOOL?

WHA-

ギクッ SHOCK

HEY, WAIT!

LADIES BATH

WHAT'RE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

NOTHING HAPPENED!

IS SOMETHING WRONG, SAOTOME-SAN?

……

WHY? HE'S A GOOD KID.

LOOK AT THAT WEIRD GRIN ON HIS FACE. DOESN'T IT GROSS YOU OUT MEGUMI-CHAN?

ゴゥ

VWIIN

I CAN'T EVEN SMILE AROUND HER.

THAT CHICK IS SO SCARY.

ポ

BLOOP

WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND ASAHINA IS A SECRET.

I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT STUPID BITCH MAKE FUN OF ME!

AH...

ASAHINA'S IN THERE TOO?

HUH?

WAH! YOUR LEGS ARE SO SKINNY, SUZUKA-CHAN!

I'M NOT SKINNY.

YEAH.

GIRLS WHO DO TRACK ARE ALWAYS SKINNY.

WHAT ABOUT ME?

AH-CHOO!

AH, DID YOU CATCH A COLD, SUZUKA-CHAN?

SHUT UP, YOU PERVERT!

SPLASH

YEAH, YOU'RE SKINNY ALL RIGHT, AND YOU'RE FLAT AS A BOARD.

JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID.

HUH?

ARE YOU OKAY?

I SAW YOU WALKING HOME. YOU WERE TOTALLY SOAKED.

SH-SHUT UP, MEGUMI-SAN!

SHIVER

DIDN'T YOU USE IT?

BUT I SAW YOU LEAVE WITH AN UMBRELLA.

SHE WON'T SAY ANY-THING.

ASAHINA HATES TALKING ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT.

WHAT?

...!!

SHOCK

YAMATO-KUN FORGOT HIS UMBRELLA, SO WE WALKED HOME TOGETHER.

I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO CATCH COLD AGAIN, AND THEN BLAME IT ALL ON ME.

THEN A GUST OF WIND CAME AND BLEW MY UMBRELLA AWAY, AND WE BOTH GOT SOAKED.

BLINK

A-HA! SO THAT'S IT.

WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME? I WOULD'VE BROUGHT YOU AN UMBRELLA.

NOW YOU'RE GONNA END UP WITH A COLD.

SPLASH

YOU'RE GETTING OUT ALREADY, SAOTOME-SAN?

カチャ

HUH?

CLICK

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT ALL EXCITED JUST BECAUSE SHE LET YOU WALK HOME WITH HER.

HOW LAME.

HEH HEH

TOO BAD.

WAH!

!

NOTHING.

SLAM

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SAOTOME-SAN?

FUCKING BITCH!

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

AHH, NOTHING BEATS THE FEELING YOU GET FROM DESTROYING SOMEONE'S DREAMS.

IT MAKES YOU FEEL TRULY ALIVE!

HE SAID HE WASN'T FEELING WELL. HE'S SKIPPING DINNER.

CLINK

CLINK

HE'S ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE AT THE DINNER TABLE.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YAMATO-KUN?

OKAY.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIS DINNER TO HIS ROOM AFTER WE FINISH, MIHO?

. . . . . .

HE'S ROUNDING SECOND! THE CATCHER CAN'T SEEM TO LET GO OF THE BALL.

OH NO, NOT ANOTHER COLD, I HOPE.

HE CAME HOME SOAKING WET AGAIN TODAY, AND HE HASN'T EVEN TAKEN A BATH.

ぶっす
GRR
……？

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN...

SHIT! WHY DID ASAHINA HAVE TO OPEN HER BIG MOUTH...

DAH-DAH

7"

BUZZ

DAH-DAH

SO IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO HER?

FWACK

FWACK

I GUESS THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.

DA-DUM

DA-DUM

WHY IS MY RING-TONE SET TO THE *JAWS* THEME?

ボフ

FWUP

DA-DUM DA-DUM

WHO IS IT, YASU-NOBU?

WOO

WOO

ARE YOU OKAY, MAN?

DON'T EVER MESS AROUND WITH MY PHONE AGAIN!

HH

SHOCK

SODA

YOU IDIOT!

DID YOU WALK HOME WITH SUZUKA-CHAN?

YEAH, YEAH. SO ANYWAY, WHAT HAPPENED?

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A NO.

.....

BEEP BEEP

ピ ポ ピ ポ ピ ポ

DING DONG

DING DONG

GOD DAMN IT! THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT.

TCH, GREAT... IT'S PROBABLY THAT BITCH YUUKA AGAIN.

GLARE

!!

GO TO HELL!

BLIP

カチャ
CLICK
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE! WHY CAN'T YOU LET ME SUFFER IN PEACE?
WH-WHAT?
HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE? I WAS JUST TRYING TO BRING YOU SOME DINNER.
UH... DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
ASAHINA...

THAT WHOLE THING PROBABLY MEANT NOTHING TO ASAHINA...

HUH?

LOOK AT ME...ONE MINUTE I'M ON CLOUD NINE, AND THE NEXT I'M ALL DEPRESSED... AND IT'S ALL HER FAULT.

OH, UH... THANKS.

...H-HARD-BOILED EGGS?

TAMAGOZAKE AND...

WHY?

JUST THE TAMAGOZAKE AND THE HARDBOILED EGGS.

HUH? YOU MEAN YOU MADE THIS?

TH-THIS TIME I FOLLOWED THE RECIPE WORD FOR WORD, SO...

I'M PRETTY SURE IT CAME OUT RIGHT.

HUH?

WELL, I HAD SOME EGGS LEFT OVER FROM BEFORE, AND... I WAS HOPING THIS WOULD MAKE YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

...EH?

W-WELL, I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!

WHAT?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD EVERYBODY THAT WE WALKED HOME TOGETHER.

W-WELL... UH...

THEN WHAT CAN I TALK ABOUT?

DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT...

...WHAT HAPPENED TODAY!

GOD, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

I DON'T WANT YOU TELLING ANYONE ABOUT HOW I GRABBED ON TO YOU!

WHA-?

. . . . . .

YOU IDIOT!

SLAM

WE DON'T WANT ANYBODY SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT US!

OH YEAH, OF COURSE!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BRIBE ME WITH THIS STUFF.

I WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD ANYONE.

I FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

WOW. IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE THE REAL THING.

I MADE AYANO-SAN GIVE ME HER RECIPE.

WELL, IT BETTER BE.

YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING SOONER!

WAH! I'M SO LUCKY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY COOKED FOR ME, ASAHINA.

CRACK

CRACK

THESE HARDBOILED EGGS LOOK PRETTY GOOD TOO.

KABOOM

GYAAA!

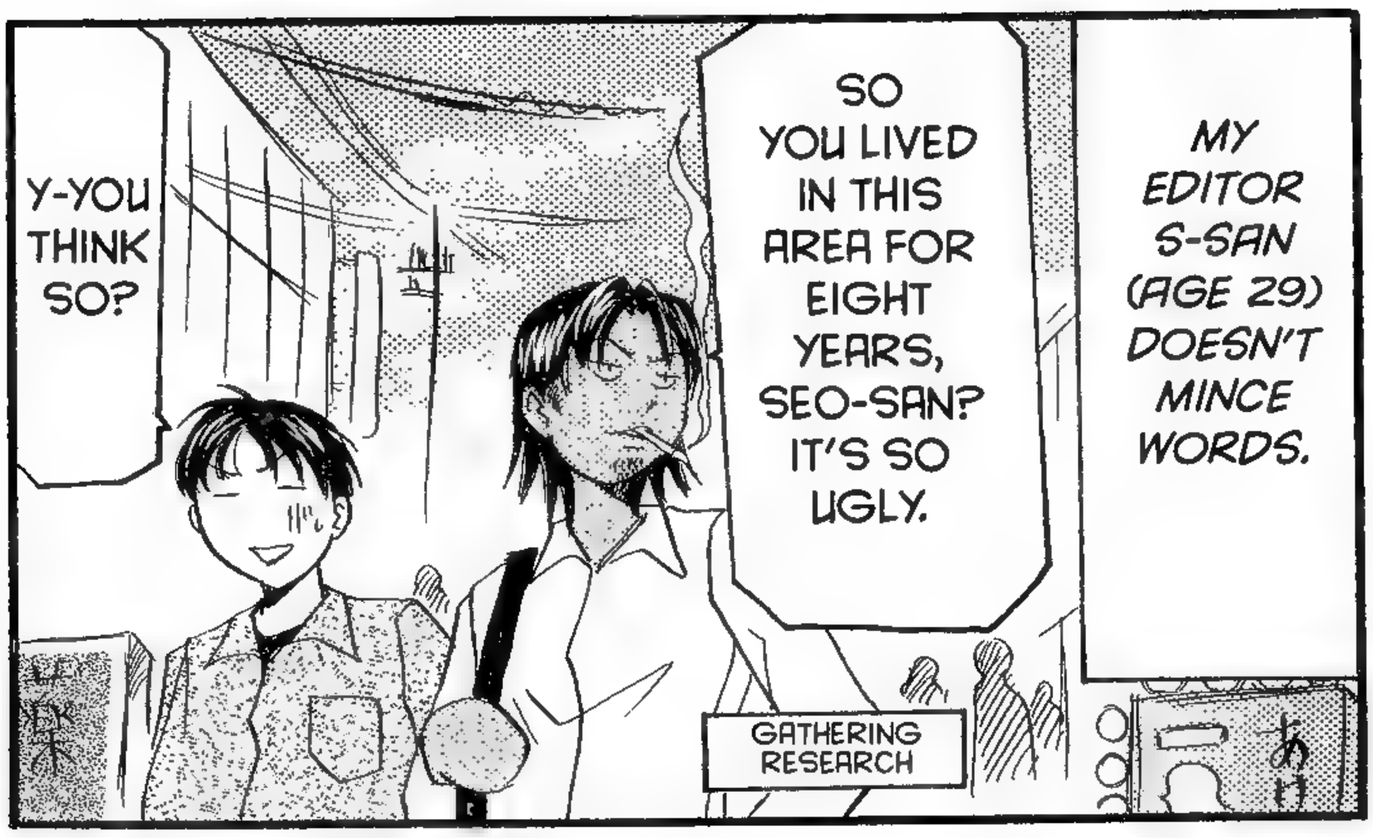
THEY SHOULD BE PERFECT.

THIS TIME I PUT THEM IN A BOWL OF WATER BEFORE STICKING THEM IN THE MICROWAVE.

*SUZUKA'S SECOND HOMEMADE DINNER

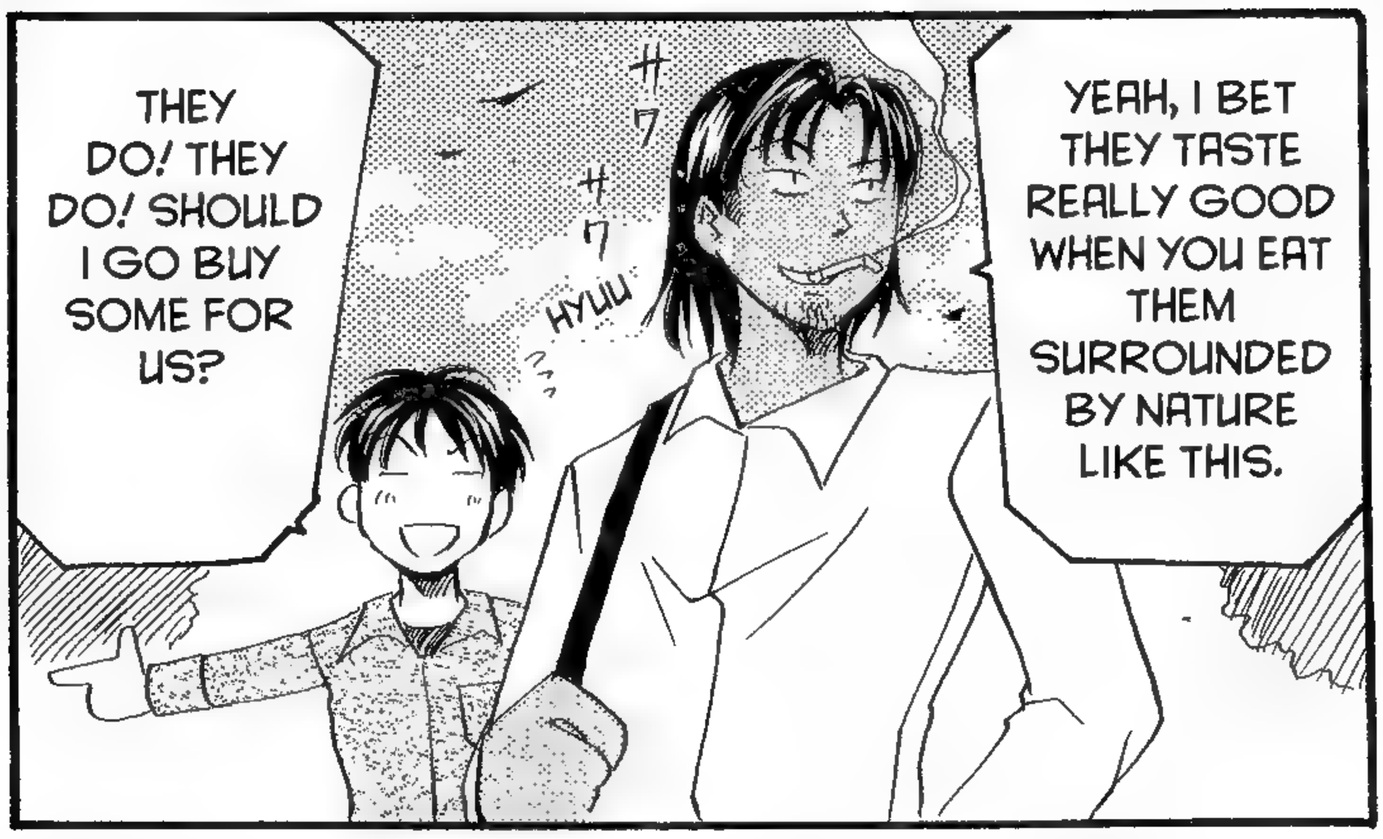
SOUP: AYANO-STYLE TAMAGOZAKE

DESSERT: EXPLODING HARD-BOILED EGGS (AGAIN)


Y-YOU THINK SO?
SO YOU LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR EIGHT YEARS, SEO-SAN? IT'S SO UGLY.
MY EDITOR S-SAN (AGE 29) DOESN'T MINCE WORDS.
GATHERING RESEARCH

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER SEVEN

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS


THEY DO! THEY DO! SHOULD I GO BUY SOME FOR US?
HYUU
YEAH, I BET THEY TASTE REALLY GOOD WHEN YOU EAT THEM SURROUNDED BY NATURE LIKE THIS.

カン カン カン
CLOP CLOP CLOP
PLOINK
PUNI!
旭湯
HUH? YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
SORRY, I'VE GOT PRACTICE THIS MORNING.
LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL TOGE-
OH, OKAY.
GET OUT OF THE WAY, GORO-CHAN!
MEOW.

Suzuka

#8 Whirlwind

HEY, YOU! QUIT TALKING.

THERE ARE TWO TYPE OF CELLS, PROKARYOTIC CELLS AND EUKARYOTIC CELLS. BOTH TYPES ARE...

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

SO THE CELL IS THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCK OF ALL LIVING ORGANISMS.

PAY ATTENTION!

...THEN WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

BUT...

MAN, ASAHINA'S BEEN TOTALLY IGNORING ME LATELY.

EVERY DAY SHE LEAVES EARLY FOR MORNING PRACTICE...

MAYBE SHE JUST DOESN'T LIKE ME.

SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HUGGED ME LIKE THAT IF SHE DIDN'T LIKE ME, RIGHT?

THEN AGAIN, SHE DID TELL ME TO KEEP IT A SECRET.

AKITSUKI! PAY ATTENTION!

Y-YES, SIR.

AND, WHEN SUZUKA-CHAN SAW YOU RUN LIKE THAT, SHE TOOK NOTICE.

WELL, ANYWAY... YOU'RE FAST, DUDE.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS!

DONG

DONG

I DON'T KNOW.

.....

BESIDES, THEY PROBABLY JUST MESSED UP WHEN THEY RECORDED MY TIME.

IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'D SUDDENLY FALL IN LOVE WITH ME JUST BECAUSE I'M FAST.

UM... TODAY?

ASAHINA...

WHAT'RE YOU DO--

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BE THAT FAST...

WHO'S SHE TALKING TO?

HUH?

BUT...

I CAN WAIT TILL YOU'RE DONE WITH PRACTICE. JUST COME ALONG FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

YEAH, COME ON.

H-HE'S HITTING ON HER!

THAT STUPID FOUR-EYED FUCK! HE THINKS HE'S SO COOL.

SAY NO, ASAHINA! AND BREAK THOSE STUPID GLASSES WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

.....

COME ON, JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE... PLEASE...

GO AHEAD, ASAHINA! SHOOT HIM DOWN!

ASAHINA HATES POSERS LIKE YOU!

REALLY? YOU MEAN IT?

SURE.

I'M GLAD I ASKED. WELL, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AFTER PRACTICE.

OKAY.

WHA—?

OKAY...

.....

WHA—?

WHAT THE HELL?

THWAP

SHUT UP.

'SUP. ARE YOU STILL IN A PISSY MOOD?

AND SHE WON'T EVEN WALK TO SCHOOL WITH ME!

SLAM

I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS SUCH A SLUT!

GOD, DOES SHE GO OUT WITH EVERY ASSHOLE WHO COMES KNOCKING?

I JUST FEEL LIKE SCREAMING TODAY.

OH, HEY. YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TODAY, ARE YOU? LET'S GO DO KARAOKE!

YOU LIKE KARAOKE, DON'T YOU?

WHAT? NO WAY, I'M NOT GOING ON A DATE WITH YOU!

JUST COME!

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.

. . . . . .

I WANNA GO.

. . . . . .

WH- WHAT? I SAID I WANTED TO GO WITH YOU...

HEY, SAKURAI! YAMATO WANTS YOU TO GO TO KARAOKE WITH HIM.

EH?

SHIT.

IF HONOKA-CHAN COMES, I WON'T BE ABLE TO RELAX AND CUT LOOSE...

THE MORE THE MERRIER.

. . . . . .

HI-RO-SHI-MAAA CARP!

パチャ SCHWIKA

パチャ SCHWIKA

GO CARP! GO CARP! GO HIROSHIMA CARP!

HE'S TOTALLY GETTING INTO IT. WHAT SONG IS THAT?

ぽけ— SPACING OUT

……

IF YOU SOAR THROUGH THE SKY, HEAVEN WILL FIND YOU!

Y-YEAH.

AHH... NOW I FEEL BETTER! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED.

THIS YEAR VICTORY IS OURS!

DADADUM

YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD SINGER, AKITSUKI-KUN.

CLAP パチパチ CLAP

FLIP

THIS IS SO LAME.

...REALLY GLAD YOU ASKED ME TO COME ALONG.

I'M...

COME ALONG...

ヒク

SHIVER

JUST COME ALONG FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

D-DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?

A-AKITSUKI-KUN?

ガチャ

SLUMP

HARBRICOO
10:00 ～ 13:00

HUH? WHAT?

スゥー

SLURP

AH... THAT'S MINE...

HUH?

OH, NO...IT'S NOTHING.

カラ

CLINK

RAMEN

WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SING, SAKURAI?

H-HE USED MY STRAW....

BLUSH

IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE KISSED.

IS SHE IGNORING ME?

NO WAY.

I'LL GO GET SOME SODAS FOR THE TWO OF US.

HUH?

YEAH, A LITTLE.

A-ARE YOU THIRSTY, AKITSUKI-KUN?

DID THEY GO SEE A MOVIE?

DID THEY GO SHOPPING?

THE TWO OF...

SHIVER

SHOCK

LET'S SEE... #410...

BEEP-

WAAHHH!

OR-

COULD THEY BE DOING-

OUCH!

WAIT!

YANK

I'M GOING HOME!

FWUP

RAMEN

IT'S NO FUN SINGING ALONE.

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A SONG. SIT DOWN AND LISTEN

HUH? WHAT? WAIT, AKITSUKI-KUN. I'LL COME WI-

AH!

SLURP!

IT'S NO FUN LISTEN-ING TO YOU EITHER.

AND I... FEEL SO LONELY... ♪

I SAID LISTEN, SAKURAI!

THIS IS AKITSUKI-KUN'S SODA.

IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD ASK HER WHAT SHE WAS DOING OR ANYTHING.

EVEN IF SHE IS...

I WONDER IF SHE'S BACK YET.

チリリ～ JINGLE

AWW... WHAT A CUTE LITTLE KITTY.

A WHITE CAT...

GORO-CHAN?

IS THAT...

... YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

HUH?

MEOW.

MEOW.

MEOW.

MEOW.

I'LL SHOW YOU!

MEOW.

SQUIRM

SQUIRM

OKAY, I GET IT!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BRAG.

NO WAY, ARE YOU SERIOUS?

HUH?

AH...

GEEZ...

...THAT FOUR-EYED FUCK!

IT'S ASAHINA AND...

GRR

GRR

AND WHY THE HELL DOES ASAHINA LOOK SO HAPPY?

WHAT'S HE HA-HA-HA-ING ABOUT? I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S HERE.

HA, HA HA.

MAYBE THEY'VE BEEN GOING OUT FOR A LONG TIME.

WAIT...

AH... YAMATO-KUN.

HUH?

OUCH!

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

ASAHINA'S TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU.

OH, SO YOU MUST BE AKITSUKI-KUN.

H-HEY...

STEP

I-IS HE TRYING TO START SOMETHING? IS HE PISSED THAT ASAHINA AND I SPEND SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER...?

THIS SUCKS... I'M OUTTA HERE.

I'M SOUICHI MIYAMOTO I'M A SOPHOMORE. I CAME ON BEHALF OF THE TRACK TEAM.

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE TEAM.

HUH?

.....

INTRO-DUCE US...

SO, YOU MEAN...

WHEN I MENTIONED THAT I KNEW YOU...

I FIGURED IT'D BE KIND OF WEIRD IF SOME GUY YOU DIDN'T KNOWJUST SHOWED UP AT YOUR DOOR, SO... I ASKED ASAHINA TO COME ALONG.

HE ASKED IF I WOULD INTRODUCE YOU GUYS.

.....

WE WENT TO JUNIOR HIGH TOGETHER.

NOPE.

SO, WILL YOU JOIN THE TRACK TEAM?

SO THEY'RE JUST FRIENDS.

O-OH... I GET IT.

WELL, IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

UH... BUT...

.....

I DON'T THINK SO.

THAT WHOLE FIFTY-METER DASH WAS PROBABLY A MISTAKE. SOMEBODY MUST'VE HIT THE WRONG BUTTON OR SOMETHING.

YOU'VE GOT SUCH TALENT. YOU COULD BE A GREAT SPRINTER.

AH... SENPAI.

WELL, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GONNA WORK OUT TODAY. I'LL COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME.

.....

YOU'RE DEFINITELY ASAHINA'S TYPE.

WELL, IT WAS GOOD TO MEET YOU...

WHA—?

HUH?

GEEZ!

DON'T JOKE AROUND LIKE THAT, YOU JERK!

. . . . !!

AM I REALLY YOUR TYPE?

HA, HA. SEE YOU LATER, AKITSUKI-KUN.

旭湯

ASAHIYU BATHS

I—

I KNEW IT!

NO, YOU IDIOT!

SO SHE REALLY DOES LIKE ME...!

AAOO

AH! ARE YOU OKAY, YAMATO-KUN?

THUD!

THAT HURT.

WHACK

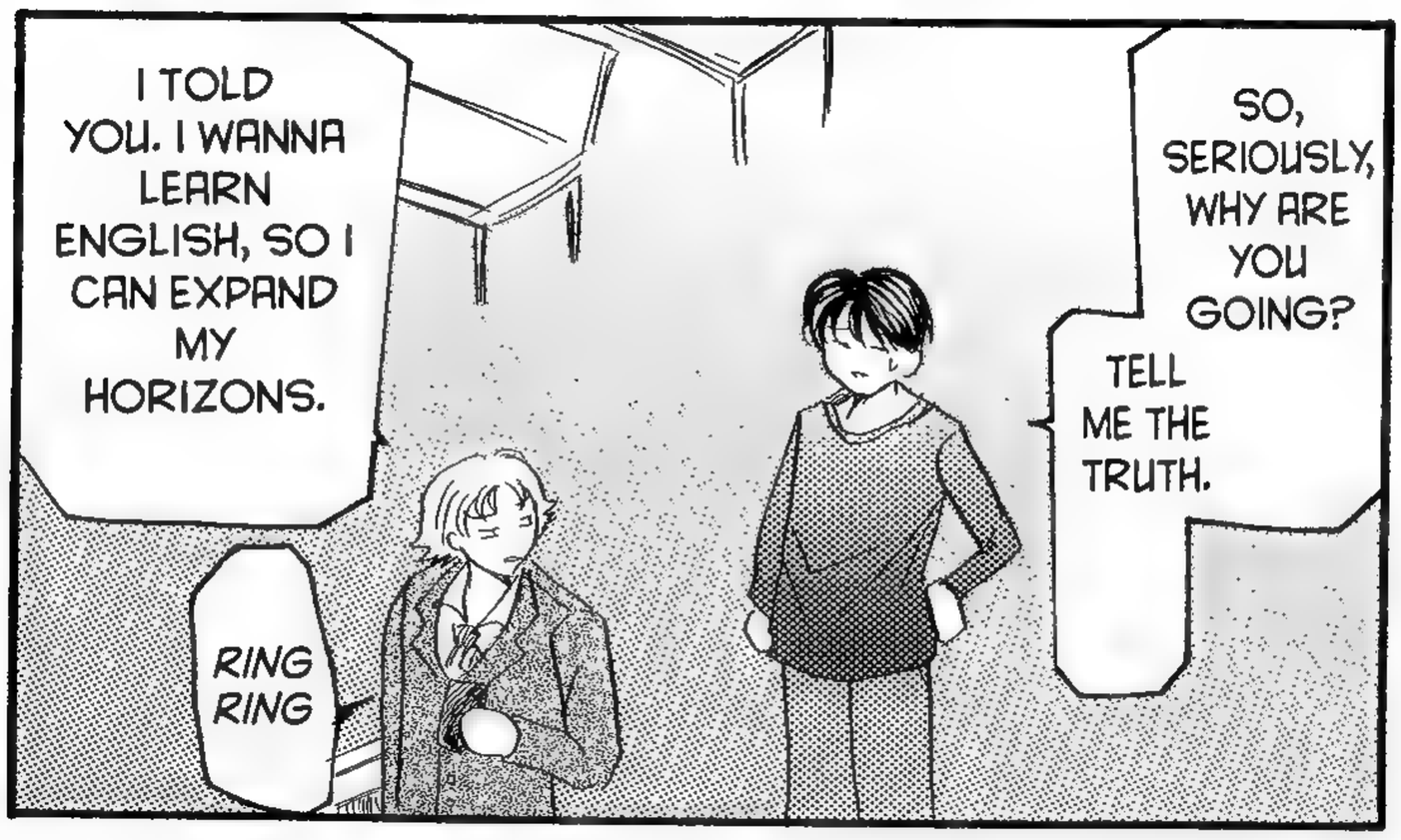
UMPPH!

ALL ALONE

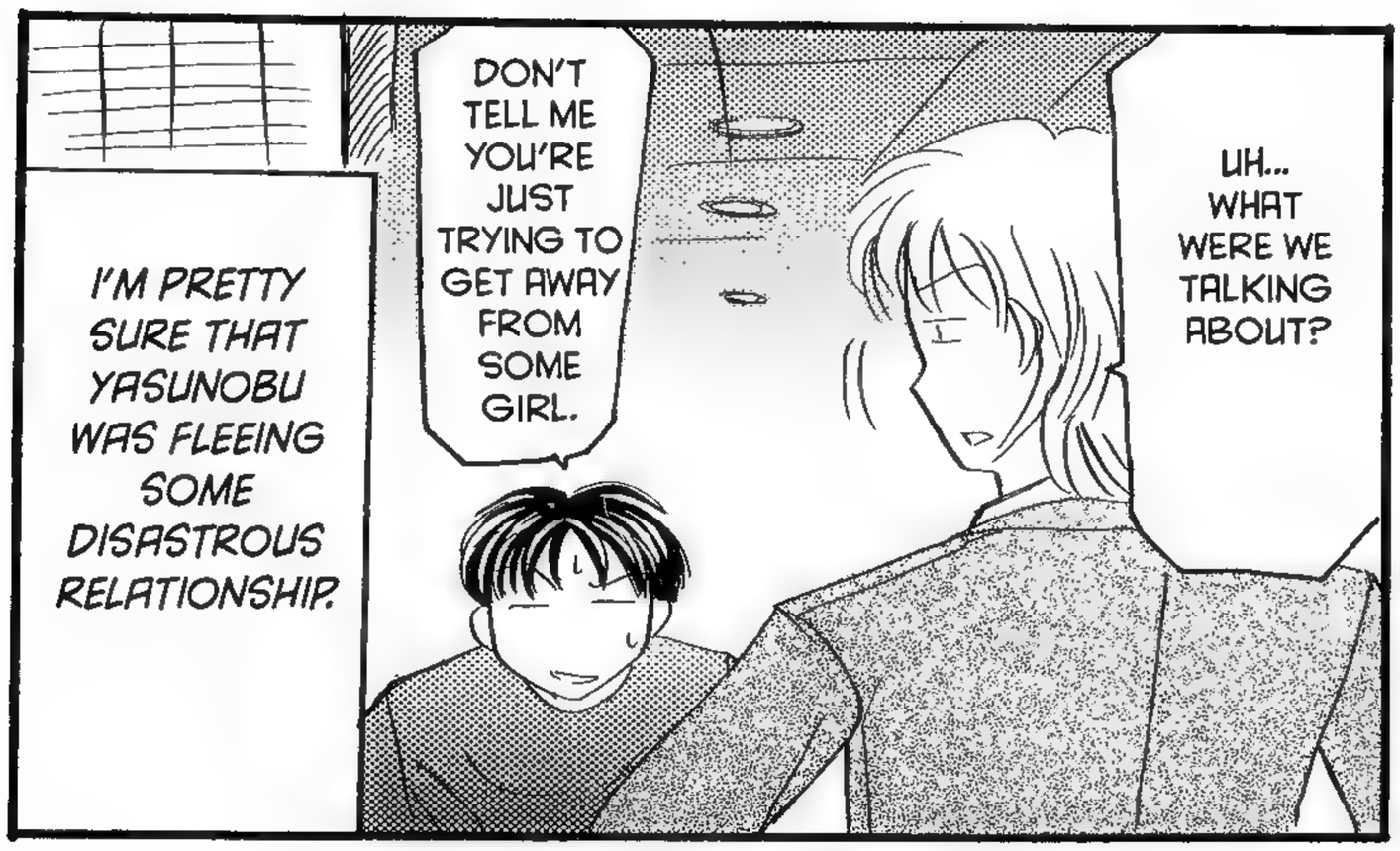
CLICK

FIVE MORE MINUTES.

AND I... FEEL SO LONELY... ♪



SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER EIGHT
THE REASON


I'M PRETTY SURE THAT YASUNOBU WAS FLEEING SOME DISASTROUS RELATIONSHIP.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM SOME GIRL.
UH... WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?

SUZUKA

#9 Self-Awareness

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A GIRL HUGS A GUY?

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMP

HUH?

I FIGURED YOU MIGHT KNOW.

I MEAN, LIKE, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, WHAT'S GOING ON IN THEIR HEADS?

YEAH.

セット ¥590

PSYCHO-LOGICALLY, HUH?

I GUESS IT MEANS SHE LIKES THE GUY.

THE BAMBOO BURGER SPRING SELECT MENU

¥590

WHY? DID SUZUKA-CHAN HUG YOU OR SOMETHING?

N-NO, THIS IS JUST HYPOTHETICAL.

IT DIDN'T REALLY HAPPEN TO ME OR ANYTHING.

Y—

. . . . . .

IT'S LIKE THEY SUDDENLY GET MAD FOR NO REASON AT ALL.

BUT... I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW GIRLS' MINDS WORK.

ASSHOLE... DOES HE HAVE TO BRAG ABOUT IT?

YEAH. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

WANT MY HOT DOG?

SLURP

HUH?

YEAH, FORGET ABOUT TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WOMEN, DUDE.

TO HELL WITH THAT!

WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS...

ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SUZUKA-CHAN?

HMM...

I TOLD YOU THIS IS PURELY HYPOTHETICAL!

HUH?

WH-WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DON'T BE STUPID.

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.

YOU DON'T KNOW...

...THE FIRST THING ABOUT LOVE.

ASAHIYU BATHS

TSSS

PPP

SPACING OUT

...

SURE HAS BEEN RAINING A LOT LATELY.

WANT SOME TEA, SUZUKA-CHAN?

NO THANKS, I'M OKAY.

I GUESS IT MEANS SHE LIKES THE GUY.

THANKS, FOR DINNER.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

AH...

YEAH...

THAT MUST BE WHAT IT MEANS.

カチャ CLANK カチャ CLANK

I THINK THERE'S A BIG STORM COMING.

MEOW.

WELL, LET'S CLEAR THE TABLE.

CLANK

.....

301 YAMATO AKITSUKI

THERE GOES ALL MY NEW-FOUND CONFIDENCE.

MAN, WHAT'S WITH HER ATTITUDE?

I MEAN I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S THINKING.

I GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW.

YASUNOBU SOUNDED PRETTY SURE ABOUT IT, BUT...

HUH?

BUP

I WONDER HOW ASAHINA REALLY FEELS ABOUT ME.

?

RATTLE

RATTLE

CRASH

D-DID THE POWER GO OUT?

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING?

I WAS HOPING TO BORROW A MATCH OR A LIGHTER OR SOMETHING.

I-IS THAT YOU, ASAHINA? WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

I CAN'T SEE A THING!

THAT'S QUITE AN ENTRANCE YOU MADE, ASAHINA.

HUH? YEAH, SURE, BUT..

WHY? ARE YOU SCARED?

. . . . . .

I-I FELL. WHAT'S WITH THIS BLACKOUT ANYWAY?

WELL... MAYBE THE WIND KNOCKED OVER A POWER LINE OR SOME-THING.

SO, AREN'T YOU GONNA DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT?

. . . !

NO!

BLUSH

I CAN'T GO TO SLEEP UNTIL I FINISH MY HOMEWORK.

NO!

SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO TO SLEEP?

WITHOUT POWER, I CAN'T WATCH TV...

A-AND I CAN'T DO MY HOMEWORK.

THE TEACHER WILL TOTALLY YELL AT ME TOMORROW.

IF I DO...

YEAH, I'VE GOT A BOX OF TEN CANDLES THAT I KEEP AROUND IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, BUT...

WOULD YOU JUST FIND A FLASHLIGHT OR SOMETHING?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY CANDLES?

.....

WAIT... DO WE EVEN HAVE HOME-WORK TODAY?

OKAY, OKAY.

I'LL LIGHT THEM UP! JUST HOLD ON A SEC.

IT'LL BE JUST LIKE CHRISTMAS, RIGHT?

U-USE THOSE! IF WE USE ALL TEN, WE CAN REALLY LIGHT THIS PLACE UP.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT'D BE LIKE CHRISTMAS.

YOU CALL THIS CHRISTMAS? IT'S MORE LIKE HALLOWEEN!

B- BLOW THEM OUT!

JUST BLOW THEM OUT!

WAH!

THIS IS KIND OF CREEPY.

FWAH

IT'S NOT JUST A NORMAL CANDLE.

IT'S AN AROMATHERAPY CANDLE. DOESN'T IT SMELL GOOD?

THERE. THIS ONE'S MUCH BETTER. ISN'T IT CUTE?

WHAT? SO YOU DID HAVE A CANDLE.

THAT WIND IS PRETTY STRONG.

ビクッ SHIVER

カタカタカタ RATTLE RATTLE

I DON'T GET IT.

AROMATHERAPY. GIRLS LOVE THAT KIND OF STUFF.

HUH?

そそっ… SWIP

……

N-NO, I DON'T.

I HAVEN'T MOVED AN INCH!

YOU ARE SCARED, AREN'T YOU?

YOU KEEP SCOOCHING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO ME.

?

ガタン CLANG ガタン CLANG

...OH REALLY?

ガタ SHIVER

ガタ SHIVER

ハッ

YANK

A-ASAHINA...

EVERYTHING'S FINE! THE SIGN PROBABLY JUST BLEW OVER.

I-I KNOW!

I JUST LOST MY BALANCE, THAT'S ALL.

BUT SHE'S STILL HOLDING ON TO ME.

I'M SERIOUS! DON'T READ ANYTHING INTO IT!

OKAY/

I GUESS EVEN ASAHINA...

...HAS HER WEAKNESSES.

M-MY SISTER! SHE ALWAYS HATED STORMS.

SHE WAS SCARED OF TYPHOONS AND BLACKOUTS...

...ISTER ALWAYS HATED STORMS.

HUH?

HMM..

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A SISTER, ASAHINA.

I ALWAYS HAD TO STAY BY HER SIDE WHENEVER THERE WAS A STORM.

SO...

SHE'S SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS!

YEAH. SHE'S A YEAR OLDER THAN I AM, BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON ME.

THE OTHER DAY, SHE COULDN'T FIND HER SHAMPOO, AND...

SHE BLAMED ME.

.....

HMM... NO KIDDING.

YEAH.

I GUESS SHE'S NOTHING LIKE ASAHINA.

WOW...

YEAH.

I'M LISTENING.

HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING, YAMATO-KUN?

AND GUESS WHERE SHE'D LEFT HER SHAMPOO BOTTLE?

IT WAS IN THE KICTHEN CABINET NEXT TO A BOTTLE OF VEGETABLE OIL. I MEAN, HOW STUPID CAN SHE BE?

ASAHINA NEVER TELLS ME PERSONAL STUFF LIKE THIS.

...WHO HATE TYPHOONS AND BLACKOUTS.

ガー
RATTLE

カリ
RATTLE

...THAT SHE HAS A SPACEY OLDER SISTER...

I HAD NO IDEA SHE LIKED AROMA-THERAPY CANDLES, OR...

IT TURNS OUT I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HER.

THIS WHOLE TIME I'VE BEEN TOTALLY OBSESSING OVER ASAHINA, BUT...

...WORRYING ABOUT HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT ME.

I'VE WASTED ALL THIS TIME...!

WHOA, THAT'S SOME SERIOUS WIND.

BONK

ﾄﾝｯ

HUH?

FWAH

CRASH

MY LEGS FELL ASLEEP!

M- MY LEGS!

A- ASAHINA-

WHA-?

I-I AM NOT!

D-DON'T WORRY. THAT WAS PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER SIGN.

YOU REALLY ARE A SCAREDY CAT.

...POUNDING LIKE CRAZY.

Y-YOU'RE THE ONE WHOSE HEART IS...

THUMP

THUMP

BECAUSE WHAT?

YEAH?

WAH!

ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SUZUKA-CHAN?

WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS...

A-AM I IN LOVE WITH HER?

THUMP

THUMP

THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE—

I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'M...

.....

THUMP

THUMP

AH.

BLIP

...BACK ON...

THE POWER IS...

NO...

WAIT!

CLOP

WELL, GUESS I'LL BE GOING NOW. SORRY FOR BARGING IN ON YOU LIKE THAT.

TH-THANK GOD. THAT WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY QUICK.

FWIP

UH, UM...

UHHH...

THEY SAY THAT LOVE SNEAKS UP ON YOU.

WH-WHAT?

UH... YEAH...

I STILL HAVE NO IDEA HOW ASAHINA FEELS ABOUT ME, BUT...

N-NEVER MIND!

IF WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE, THEN...

LOVE MUST HAVE SNUCK UP ON ME...

THE MOMENT I FIRST...

....LAID EYES ON SUZUKA ASAHINA.

ASAHIYU BATHS

AH!

YOU WERE SCARED, WEREN'T YOU?

I WAS NOT!

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 1

YAMATO AKITSUKI
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—JULY 30 (LEO)
HEIGHT—5'10"
WEIGHT—132 LBS
BLOOD TYPE—O

LIKES
- THE HIROSHIMA CARPS
- THE MEAT AND POTATO CROQUETTES THAT HE EATS AT THE SHRINE.
- ASAHINA WHEN SHE'S BEING NICE

DISLIKES
- HARD WORK
- GREEN ONIONS
- ASAHINA WHEN SHE'S ANGRY

MOTTO—LET FORTUNE COME TO YOU.

AND WE HAPPEN TO LIVE IN THE SAME APARTMENT COMPLEX.

ASAHIYU BATHS

IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE I LEFT TOKYO.

THE GIRL I LIKE JUST HAPPENS TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS AS ME.

YAMATO AKITSUKI

CLICK.

YAWN.

IN FACT, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT SHE'S IN THE ROOM RIGHT NEXT TO MINE.

GOD! YOU COULD AT LEAST WIPE THAT DROOL OFF YOUR CHIN.

EVERY TIME SHE SEES ME, SHE SAYS SOMETHING NASTY.

OH...

HELLO.

!

UH... OKAY.

YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP, OR AYANO-SAN'LL BE PISSED.

BUT THE MOMENT I LAID EYES ON HER...

#10 Lovesick

IT WAS...

...LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

SUZUKA

GLANCE

ちら?

MOM, CAN I HAVE SOME TEA?

OKAY, JUST A SECOND.

HUH?

ARE YOU OKAY, YAMATO-KUN? DO YOU WANT SECONDS?

UH...YES, PLEASE.

SHE GETS CUTER AND CUTER...

...EVERY DAY.

HUH?

THUMP

ミシッ

THUMP

UH...

YOU'VE GOT FOOD ALL OVER YOUR FACE.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MANNERS?

AH, I THOUGHT YOU WANTED SECONDS, YAMATO-KUN.

UH...MAY I BE EXCUSED?

SH-SHUT UP! I CAN'T HELP IT. I'M STARVING!

...?

CHOMP

ﾊﾟｸｯ

CHOMP

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

I'M TOTALLY NERVOUS AROUND HER.

NOW THAT I REALIZE I'M IN LOVE WITH ASAHINA...

HUH?

コツ STEP

コツ STEP

GREAT... I'M STILL HUNGRY. NOW I'LL HAVE TO BUY BREAKFAST.

ROMANCE HORO-SCOPE?

HOW LAME...LIKE I'D REALLY BELIEVE SOME STUPID HOROSCOPE.

パラッ FLIP

最前線カタログ

Ceci SPRING ROMANCE HOROSCOPE

WILL YOU BE LUCKY IN LOVE?

12星座占い

おまじない百科

安部晴明の陰陽師占い

天中殺をのりきる!

東洋12占術

春の新色コスメ

幸運をGET

EVEN THOUGH I'M PRACTICALLY BROKE.

手づくりパー

HUH?

THIS MONTH'S LUCKY SIGN IS LEO.

THAT'S ME! I WAS BORN ON JULY 30TH.

"THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO BECOME MORE INTIMATE WITH THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE."

NO WAY!

"WEARING BLUE PANTIES WILL MAKE YOUR LUCK EVEN BETTER." PANTIES?

WAIT, I THINK I'M WEARING MY BLUE UNDER-WEAR.

CLASSY.

Cawaii!

POP

"THIS IS YOUR OPPOR-TUNITY...

...TO MAKE YOUR FEELINGS KNOWN."

7月23日～8月22日

おとめ座

8月23日～9月22日

TELL HER HOW I FEEL?

...

OH, UH... SORRY.

I HOPE YOU'RE PLANNING ON BUYING THAT.

LIKE I'M JUST GONNA WALK RIGHT UP TO HER, AND SAY "I LOVE YOU"?

HEY!

HEH. かは！

YEAH, RIGHT!

THWAP

I'LL HAVE BEEF UDON.

COM-ING UP.

I'LL HAVE A YAKISOBA SANDWICH.

DONG

DING

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE ACTUALLY GONNA TELL SUZUKA-CHAN HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER?

WHAT?

YOU HAVE TO MAKE A MOVE AND LET HER KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED.

ME?

WELL, I GUESS I USUALLY JUST WAIT TILL THE TIME IS RIGHT, AND THEN SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "WILL YOU GO WITH ME?"

I TOLD YOU, THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME!

I JUST WANNA KNOW IF YOU'VE EVER ASKED SOMEONE TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND.' WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER?

I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO TELL HER.

HMM...

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT IT'D BE LIKE.

BUT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.

.....

SHOPPING TOGETHER...

GOING OUT TO EAT TOGETHER...

YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, MY SON.

WE ALREADY DO THAT!

WELL, EVERYBODY'S DIFFERENT.

BASICALLY, YOU GO OUT TO EAT TOGETHER OR YOU GO SHOPPING TOGETHER...

HMM...

HUH?

SURE, HAVE A SEAT, SAKURAI.

MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

UH, UM...

UH... YEAH.

カ" タ" CLINK

AH, YOU'RE HAVING UDON TOO, AKITSUKI-KUN?

ISN'T IT GOOD?

WHAT'S WRONG?

IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

シ" シ" SHAKE

シ" シ" SHAKE

HAVE YOU EVER ASKED A GUY TO BE YOUR BOYFRIEND, HONOKA-CHAN?

ピキ SHOCK ーン

HUH?

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

SLURP

ナニ!?

I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT RELATION-SHIPS.

WHA—

HUH?

BOYFRIEND?

WHOA... EASY ON THE CHILI PEPPER THERE, SAKURAI.

G-GIRL-FRIEND?

FWISH

PLOP

!!

I...I DON'T KNOW EITHER.

I'VE NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND.

TWIRL

TWIRL

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

A-AKITSUKI-KUN.

THAT'S GONNA BE ONE SPICY BOWL OF UDON.

CLINK

SORRY FOR ASKING SUCH A WEIRD QUESTION.

OH...

HAVE SOME WATER.

COUGH

COUGH

ゴフッ

ゴフッ

!

ドキドキ THUMP THUMP

ちゅるる SLURP

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO, HATTORI-KUN?

IT WASN'T ME!

WOO

WOO

FWISH

SIGH...

SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SO HAPPY WHEN SHE'S DOING THE HIGH JUMP.

TOING

YEAH!

YOU CLEARED THAT ONE PRETTY EASILY, ASAHINA.

WAH! OH NO!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

YAMATO-KUN?

RUSTLE

暴力

I GUESS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT STUFF ANYMORE.

EATING TOGETHER... SHOPPING TOGETHER...

IF I TELL ASAHINA HOW I FEEL AND SHE TURNS ME DOWN...

I JUST DON'T KNOW.

WELL... I DON'T THINK SHE HATES ME OR ANYTHING, BUT...

SHE COULD SAY YES?

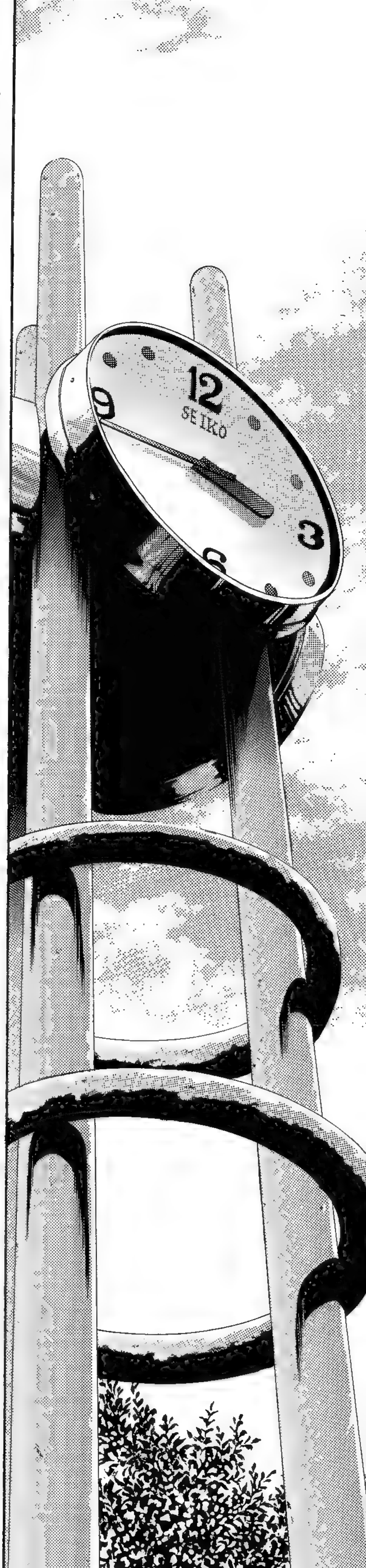
SO I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE THAT...

MAN, I'D BETTER ASK YASUNOBU ABOUT IT.

THEN WHAT WOULD I DO?

WHISPER ひそ

WHISPER ひそ



IF I DON'T MAKE A MOVE...

WELL, I GUESS HE'S RIGHT.

YOU HAVE TO MAKE A MOVE AND LET HER KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED.

...HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT ME.

I'LL NEVER KNOW...

SHOCK

YAMATO-KUN!

I'VE GOT TO...

AH...

...TELL ASAHINA THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH HER.

WHAT ABOUT PRACTICE?

A-ASAHINA!

THANK GOD, I CAUGHT UP WITH YOU!

O-OH...

WE FINISHED EARLY TODAY.

SO I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD GO SHOPPING TOGETHER. THAT'S WHY I RAN AFTER YOU.

.....

.....

IF SHE TURNED ME DOWN...WE'D PROBABLY NEVER HAVE A CONVERSATION LIKE THIS ABAIN.

SO MAYBE I SHOULDN'T...

HEY, YAMATO-KUN...

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANNA TELL ME?

N-NO...

WELL, I MEAN...

I—

LEO

THUMP

トク

THUMP

トク

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, ASAHINA...

ドキッ

SHOCK

HUH?

YOU ALWAYS TREAT ME LIKE I'M YOUR SLAVE.

YOU COULD AT LEAST BUY ME DINNER OR SOMETHING.

HUH?

. . . . . .

OKAY, FINE, BUT YOU'D BETTER AT LEAST CARRY ALL THE SHOPPING BAGS.

HUH?

GOD, YOU'RE SUCH A CHEAPSKATE.

AND YOU NEVER EVEN APOLOGIZED FOR ALL THOSE EXPLODING EGGS YOU MADE ME EAT.

NO WAY!

WHAT? WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO BUY YOU DINNER?

YOU CAN HANDLE THAT, CAN'T YOU?

IN EXCHANGE FOR DINNER.

BUT I DON'T EVEN NEED TO TELL HER. I MEAN, THIS IS PRACTICALLY A DATE.

Y-YEAH.

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SAY IT STRAIGHT TO HER FACE.

BUT I GUESS I SHOULDN'T READ TOO MUCH INTO THIS.

YOU'RE SO PICKY.

さくら

あいす

SUNDAY

COFFEE

OH, AND NO FAST FOOD.

GOD, THIS IS SO FRUS-TRATING.

THE MORE I LIKE HER, THE HARDER IT GETS...

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 2

SUZUKA ASAHINA
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—JUNE 1 (GEMINI)
HEIGHT—5'7"
WEIGHT—?
BLOOD TYPE—B
MEASUREMENTS—32", 23", 33"

LIKES
- TRACK (THE HIGH JUMP)
- HARD WORK
- SHOPPING (FOR AROMATHERAPY ITEMS AND STUFFED ANIMALS)

DISLIKES
- IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE
- DARK PLACES, GHOSTS, BUGS
- GREASY FOOD

MOTTO—HARD WORK PAYS OFF.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

OH, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE THE DISHES THERE.

CLINK カチャ

カチャ CLANK

THANKS, AYANO-SAN. EVERYTHING WAS DELICIOUS.

YOU HAVE PRACTICE ON SATURDAYS? MAN, THE TRACK TEAM SURE IS STRICT.

HUH...

WELL, I'M OFF TO PRACTICE.

WELL, WE'VE GOT A MEET COMING UP.

BUT, WE GET TOMORROW OFF, SO I CAN FINALLY RELAX.

SLAM

...SO, SHE HAS TOMORROW OFF...

THANKS. I WILL.

HAVE FUN, ASAHINA-SAN!

#11 The Promise

SUZUKA

MAYBE WE CAN GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER TOMORROW.

IT'S NOT TOO OFTEN THAT SHE GETS SUNDAY OFF...

OR WOULD THAT BE TOO MUCH LIKE A DATE...?

HMMM... MAYBE A MOVIE OR AN AMUSEMENT PARK...

BUT... WE JUST WENT SHOPPING YESTERDAY...

.....

I DON'T THINK SHE'S INTO KARAOKE...

BESIDES, WHO'D WANNA SPEND THEIR DAY OFF DOING KARAOKE?

IF I ASK ASAHINA TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT IT'LL BE TOTALLY OBVIOUS THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH HER.

わそ SHUFFA

わそ SHUFFA

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER TELL HER...!

HUH?

ピロ DING

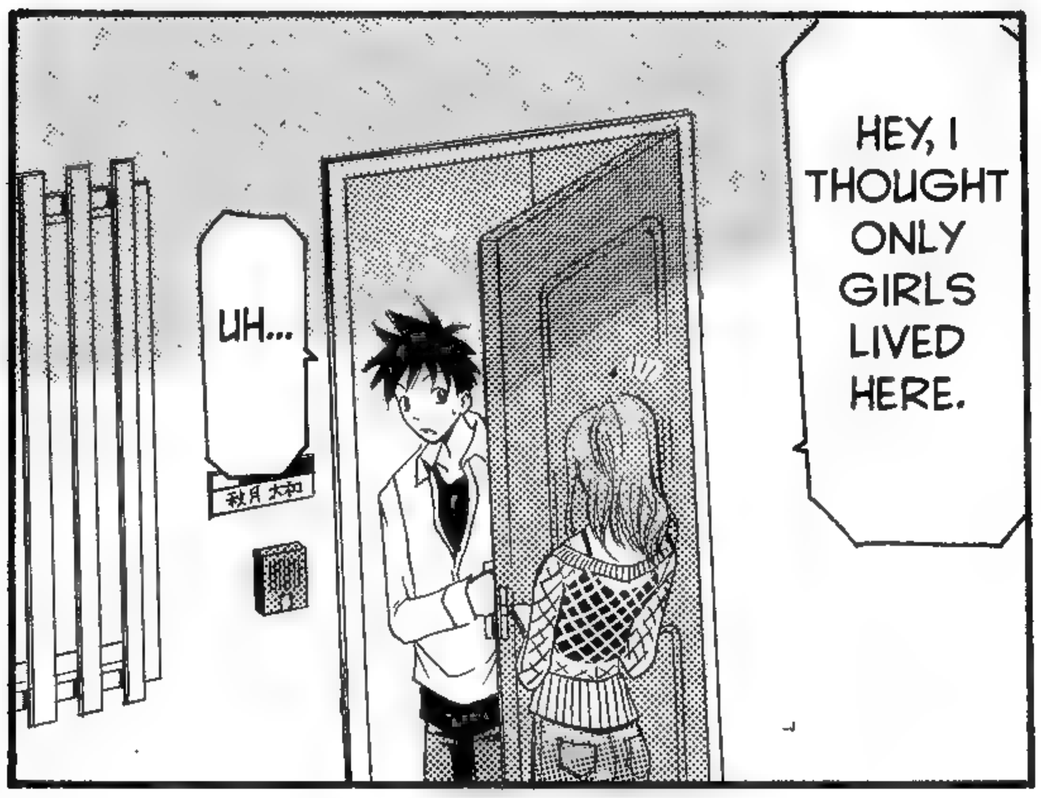
ピロ DING

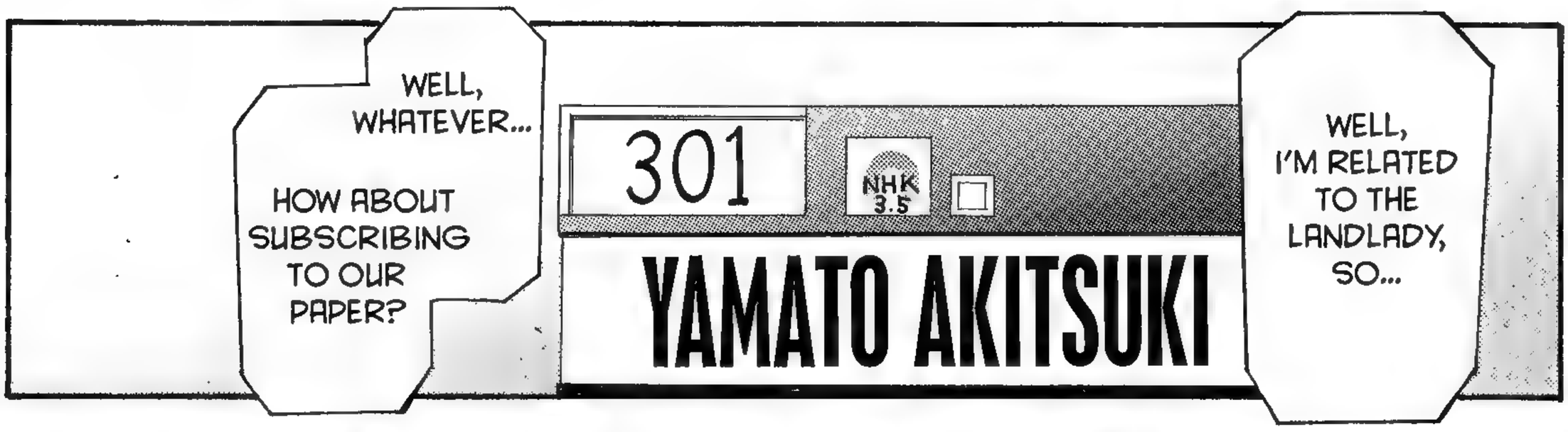
DONG

DONG

NEWS-PAPER?
HUH?

ピンポーン
CLICK
GOOD AFTERNOON! I'M FROM MAIASA MORNING NEWS!
DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSPAPER?


UH...
秋月大和
HEY, I THOUGHT ONLY GIRLS LIVED HERE.


WELL, WHATEVER...
HOW ABOUT SUBSCRIBING TO OUR PAPER?
301
NHK 3.5
YAMATO AKITSUKI
WELL, I'M RELATED TO THE LANDLADY, SO...

CREAK
CREAK
WELL, JUST TRY IT OUT FOR A MONTH.
OKAY?
UH, I-I'M REALLY NOT INTERESTED.
ピンポーン
CREAK
STOMP
NO THANKS, I DON'T REALLY READ THE PAPER.
SORRY.

HUH?

FWIP

RIGHT NOW, IF YOU SUBSCRIBE TO BOTH THE MORNING AND THE EVENING EDITIONS, YOU GET TWO FREE TICKETS TO FANTASY LAND.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

TH-THAT'S IT!

BLINK

FLICK

1 DAY PASS

FLICK

SO HOW ABOUT IT?

THESE ARE MY LAST TWO TICKETS, AND THEY'RE ONLY GOOD TILL TOMORROW.

THAT'L BE 3,800 YEN*.

SO YOU'D LIKE A ONE-MONTH SUB-SCRIPTION?

*APPROXIMATELY $38

WHOOSH

OKAY! I'LL SUBSCRIBE!

JUST HAND OVER THOSE TICKETS!

HAND 'EM OVER!

HUH?

O-OKAY.

OKAY! SOUNDS GOOD!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL START WITH TONIGHT'S EVENING EDITION.

YOU JUST GAVE ME A POWERFUL, NEW SECRET WEAPON!

ドキ THUMP

ドキ THUMP

THANK YOU, NEWSPAPER LADY!

チッ・TIC

チッ・・・TOC

"IT'D BE A SHAME TO LET THEM GO TO WASTE."

FANTASYLAND ファンタジーランド

1 DAY PASS

"THESE CAME FREE WITH MY NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION. WANNA COME WITH ME?"

I'VE GOTTA TRY TO ACT NATURAL.

ボフ FWUMP

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR ASAHINA TO GET HOME.

ALL RIGHT!

THAT SOUNDS NORMAL! TOTALLY NORMAL!

HUH? A- ASAHINA!

YAMATO-KUN?

ピンポーン DING DONG

?

UH, UH...

Y-YEAH...

AYANO-SAN TOLD ME TO TELL YOU DINNER'S READY.

NO... IT'S NOT THAT...

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU SICK AGAIN?

AH! WAIT...

STEP

STEP

WELL, WHATEVER. JUST COME DOWN.

THUMP

DAMN IT! EVEN AFTER ALL THAT PRACTICE...

GOD... I'M SO PATHETIC!

SLUMP

I STILL CAN'T SAY IT.

THUMP

HUH?

AH, HERE HE COMES!

SHIT, I CAN'T ASK HER AT DINNER. EVERYONE WILL HEAR ME.

CLOP

CLOP

I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO TO HER ROOM.

ASAHIYU BATHS

WHY DIDN'T I JUST ASK HER?

GREAT... IT'S THE SHE-DEVIL.

YOU CAN'T DRINK OUT HERE, SAOTOME-SAN.

WE'VE BEEN WAITNG FOR YOU, YAMATO-KUN. ♡

L-LET GO OF ME, SAOTOME-SAN!

YOINK

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET OUR DRINK ON!

PURR

PURR

HEY, STAY OUT OF MY ROOM!

AHH!

HUH? WHAT'RE THESE?

FULL DAY PASSES TO FANTASY LAND?

FANTASYLAND ファンタジー ランド

1 DAY PASS

HEY!

SWIPE

GIVE ME THOSE!

NO, I'M NOT!

N–

TWO TICKETS, HUH?

HUH?

OH REALLY?

THEN WANNA GO WITH ME?

GUESS YOU'RE PLANNING ON INVITING SUZUKA-CHAN.

MEGUMI-CHAN! HERE!

SWIPE

WHY THE HELL WOULD I WANNA HANG OUT WITH YOU? GIVE 'EM BACK!

I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE THE DAY OFF TOMORROW.

SMOOCH

I WOULDN'T MIND KEEPING YOU COMPANY.

GVIE 'EM BACK, YOU BITCH!

SWIPE

FANTASYLAND

AH!

KYAA!!

1 DAY PASS

CRASH

GOD, TAKE IT EASY. SOMEONE COULD GET HURT.

FLAP

FLAP

SHIT.

OUCH.

G-GOD... WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

YOU'RE SO GROSS.

GI— GIVE 'DEM... <SNIFFLE>... BACK... PWEASE...

LET'S JUST GIVE THEM BACK, SAOTOME-SAN.

I THINK THEY'RE REALLY IMPORTANT TO HIM.

THOSE TICKETS ARE MY ONLY CHANCE!

OUCH! THAT HURTS, YAMATO-KUN!

ぎゅっ

SQUEEZE

・・・・・・・

・・・・・・・

WAH!

SLICE

BOING BOING

!

!

SWIPE

AWW... HE'S LIKE A NATURAL PAPER SHREDDER.

MEOW!

CRACK

TH—

CRACK

THERE GOES MY ONLY CHANCE!

WH-WHAT? THAT WASN'T MY FAULT.

YOU'D BETTER PAY FOR THOSE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, GORO-CHAN?

MEOW.

SLICE

YOU IDIOT!

WHY DON'T YOU GO BUY US SOME SNACKS TO GO WITH THE SAKE? AFTER A COUPLE OF DRINKS, YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT IT.

I CALL THIS ONE "YAMATO-KUN SQUEEZES SOME HOT COLLEGE CO-ED TIT."

I CAUGHT SOME REALLY GREAT FOOTAGE OF YOU ON MY CELL, YAMATO-KUN!

ぽつ

SLUMP

……

ALL RIGHT... I'M GOING.

YOU'D BETTER BE BACK IN TEN MINUTES! AND THE SNACKS ARE ON YOU!

I SHOULD'VE ASKED HER WHEN SHE CAME TO MY ROOM.

EVEN IF I WANTED TO GET NEW TICKETS, IT'D BE TOO LATE NOW ANYWAY.

SHIT... NOW IT'S HOPELESS.

THERE GOES MY ONLY WEAPON.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET THROUGH WHEN YOU'RE BLOCKING THE STAIRS?

. . . . . .

STEP

HEY, I WANNA GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE.

HUH?

IT'S TOO LATE NOW.

ASAHINA...

UH... YEAH.

THE SALES LADY WOULDN'T GO AWAY, SO I BOUGHT A MONTH'S SUBSCRIPTION.

HEY, YAMATO-KUN...

SHE CAME TO MY ROOM TOO, BUT I DIDN'T BUY ANYTHING.

SHE DID GIVE ME TWOTICKETS TO FANTASY LAND THOUGH.

I SAW A NEWSPAPER BY YOUR DOOR. DID YOU SUBSCRIBE?

WHAT?

SHE DID?

YEAH, SHE JUST LET ME HAVE THEM.

THAT BITCH!

SHE SAID SHE ONLY HAD TWO LEFT.

EH?

WHAT'S WRONG?

UH... NOTHING.

THEY DIDN'T COST ME ANYTHING, BUT...

IT'D KIND OF BE A WASTE NOT TO USE THEM.

I'LL JUST SAY..."WANNA GO WITH ME?"...ALMOST LIKE I'M JOKING AROUND.

THUMP

ドク

NOW'S MY CHANCE... I JUST HAVE TO ACT NATURAL...

UM...

THUMP

ドク

SAY IT! JUST SAY IT!

THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE.

JUST ACT NATURAL...

ドク

THUMP

WELL, I GUESS I COULD *LET YOU* TAKE ME.

OH MY GOD! I SOUND LIKE A STUCK UP ASSHOLE!

ニヤリ
HEH

ピク
DOINK

HUH?

GOD, YOU'RE SUCH A CHILD...

HUH?

W...WAIT, I MEAN...

SORRY, I...

OH NO! I PISSED HER OFF AGAIN!

IF YOU WANNA COME WITH ME, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TRY ASKING NICELY?

カ
CLOP

カ
CLOP

HUH?

WHAT? NOW YOU DON'T WANNA GO?

HUH?

NO, I...

I MEAN, IF YOU REALLY WANNA GO, THEN I'LL COME WITH YOU!

OKAY, THEN.

...I GUESS...

...I COULD *LET YOU* TAG ALONG.

DON'T OVERSLEEP!

TOMORROW! EIGHT A.M.!

O-OKAY.

ALL RIGHT!

GRIP

MEN ARE ALL THE SAME.

HMMPH

WELL, IT'S BEEN TEN MINUTES.

HE'S DEAD MEAT.

HIC

I DID IT...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

I DID IT!

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 3

YASUNOBU HATTORI
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—DECEMBER 16
(SAGITTARIUS)
HEIGHT—5'10"
WEIGHT—140 LBS
BLOOD TYPE—O

LIKES
- GIRLS (ESPECIALLY OLDER ONES)
- DATING
- KARAOKE

DISLIKES
- GETTING UP EARLY
- OTHER GUYS
- NEEDY CHICKS

MOTTO—BIGAMY IS BEAUTIFUL.

YAMATO AND SUZUKA-CHAN.

YAMATO WAS ACTING ALL SNEAKY LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO FIND OUT WHAT HE WAS UP TO.

BUT I TOTALLY SAW HIM

I SAW THOSE TWO LEAVE TOGETHER EARLY THIS MORNING.

カン

CLOP

HUH?

カン

CLOP

DO YOU THINK THEY WENT TO FANTASY LAND?

MAYBE HE GOT SOME NEW TICKETS.

TEE HEE

カン

CLOP

PROBABLY.

カン

CLOP

HEY, MOM! WHERE'S YAMATO AND SUZUKA-CHAN?

THEY STEPPED OUT TOGETHER A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

THEY DID?

WHERE THE HECK WOULD THEY GO ON A DAY LIKE THIS?

THAT KID...

...IS SO UNLUCKY.

SUZUKA

ザー

ザー

ザー

IT ENDS UP POURING DOWN RAIN.

I FINALLY GET ASAHINA TO GO TO THE THEME PARK WITH ME, AND...

YOU SAID THE WEATHER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE NICE TODAY, AND I WAS DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE YOU.

I JUST BOUGHT THESE SHOES, AND NOW THEY'RE SOAKED.

WE WON'T EVEN GET TO SEE THE PARADE.

THIS SUCKS!

YOU THOUGHT? DID YOU EVEN BOTHER TO CHECK THE WEATHER REPORT?

W-WELL, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE.

MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE SOME INDOOR ATTRACTIONS.

I-IT'LL STILL BE FUN.

YEAH WELL, I DIDN'T! IT'S NOT LIKE I KNEW IT WAS GONNA RAIN!

BESIDES, THAT'S THE GUY'S JOB. DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN MAYBE? DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T EVEN DO ANY RESEARCH!

WELL...I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO...

カチ SNAP

AH.

EXCUSE ME, SIR. PLEASE DON'T FIGHT IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCE.

OH, SO THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!? WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?

.....

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO GO WITH YOU! GOD, YOU'RE SO CLUELESS!

MAN, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE FUN, BUT...

IT'S TURNING INTO A TOTAL CATAS-TROPHE.

PLEASE PROCEED TOWARD THE FRONT.

HEY, YAMATO-KUN!

YEAH?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

AFTER WE RIDE THIS ONE, I'M GOING HOME!

SIGH.

WHY'D WE EVEN BOTHER COMING?

.....

WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING TO A THEME PARK IF WE'RE JUST GONNA STAY INSIDE?

CLACK

WAIT! WHAT KIND OF RIDE IS THIS?

HUH?

WHOOAA...

ZOOM

HUH?

W-WOW! LOOK AT THE CITY DOWN BELOW.

I GUESS THERE AREN'T ANY FUN INDOOR RIDES.

CLANK

CLANK

DON'T YOU SEE THE CITY DOWN THERE?

WHAT?

ZOOM

WELL, I HAD A PRETTY GOOD TIME ON THAT ONE, BUT...

GLANCE

I GUESS I UNDER-ESTIMATED THE INDOOR ATTRACTIONS.

THOSE COMPUTER GRAPHICS WERE AMAZING.

WAH...

SHE'S STILL MAD.

YEP, SHE'S DEFINITELY READY TO GO HOME.

HUH?

HA

HEH.

HA

I COULDN'T HELP IT. I WAS TOTALLY SCARED.

OH MY GOD! LOOK AT YOUR FACE, YAMATO-KUN!

Fantasy Land

CHECK THIS OUT!

I DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE GONNA HAVE OUR PICTURE TAKEN.

SHIT...

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO GO HOME.

HUH?

WELL...

O-OKAY.

HURRY UP! WE'RE WASTING TIME!

W-WELL, LET'S RIDE ALL THE INDOOR ATTRACTIONS!

ALL RIGHT! SHE'S NOT PISSED OFF ANYMORE!

YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN RIDE THEM ALL?

WHICH ONE SHOULD WE GO ON NEXT?

ザアアア

W-WAIT. CAN'T WE RELAX FOR A FEW MORE MINUTES?

CLINK

I DOUBT THEY'LL HAVE THE PARADE WHEN IT'S POURING LIKE THIS.

OH WELL... LET'S JUST DO SOME SHOPPING, AND HEAD HOME.

I WANNA SEE EVERYTHING, SO EVERY MINUTE COUNTS.

NO!

HUH?

AFTER ALL THAT COMPLAINING...

YOU ENDED UP HAVING A PRETTY GOOD TIME, DIDN'T YOU?

OKAY, THEN.

IS THAT BAD?

OH YEAH, I FORGOT. ASAHINA CAN SPEND HOURS JUST SHOPPING...

NO...

OF COURSE NOT.

.....

I END UP LUGGING AROUND ALL THE SHOPPING BAGS...

NO WAY! THOSE ARE GROSS.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET THESE?

SHE DRAGS ME FROM STORE TO STORE, AND...

...ANY OTHER DAY WITH ASAHINA.

ISN'T IT CUTE?

THIS CAT LOOKS JUST LIKE GORO-CHAN.

IT REALLY WASN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM...

AH...

I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHERE WE GO...

WHEN-EVER...

OKAY, OKAY.

COME ON, LET'S GO. HURRY UP!

...WE GO OUT TOGETHER, I'M ALWAYS STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP WITH HER.

A LITTLE LATE...

YEAH.

HUH?

グイッ

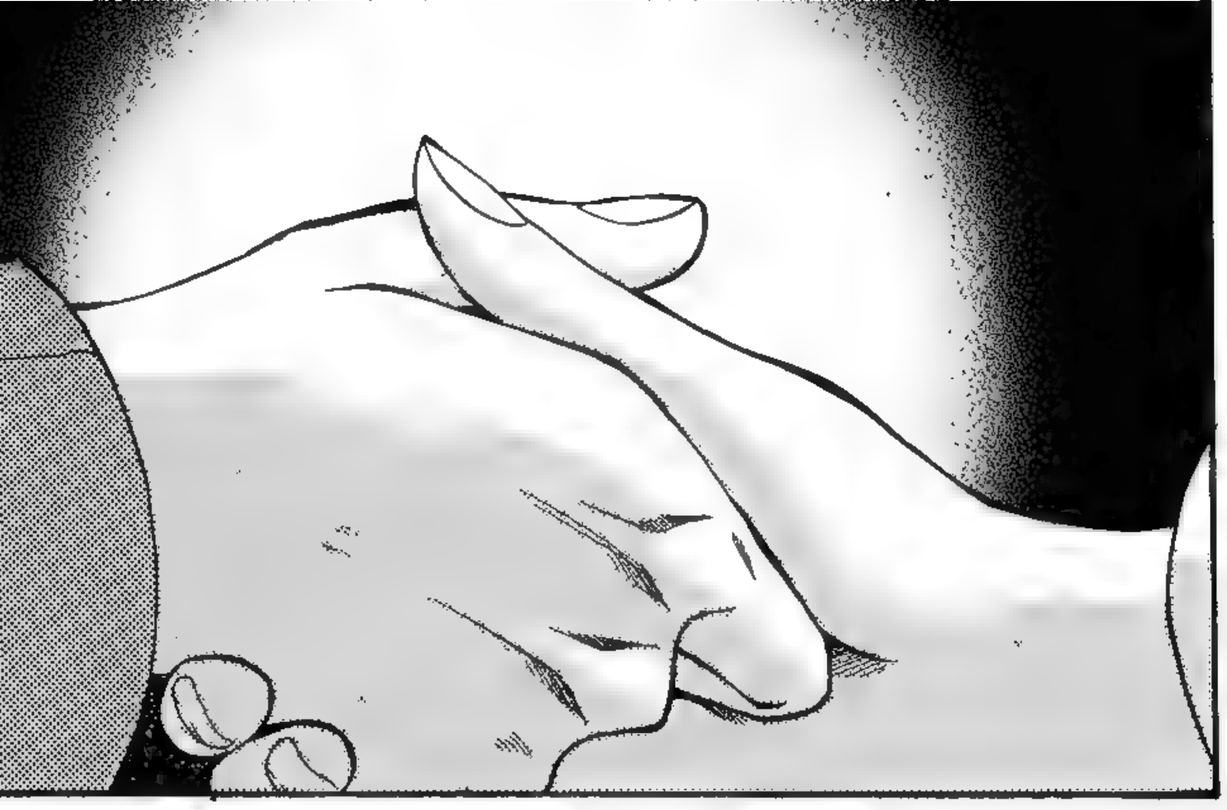
YANK

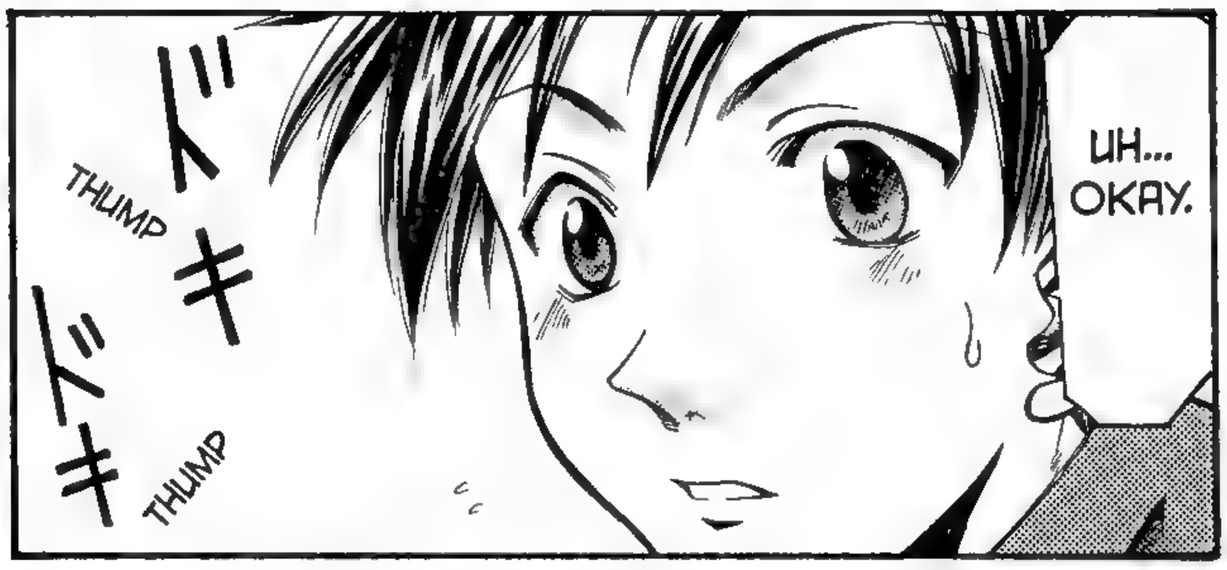
MAYBE THEY ARE HAVING THE PARADE.

COME ON!

LOOK, YAMATO-KUN!

IT STOPPED RAINING!




UH... OKAY.
ドキ
THUMP
ドキ
THUMP

WAH

WHOA!
ドキドキ
THUMP
THUMP
WE'RE STILL HOLDING HANDS.

ドーン
BONG
タカ
THUPPA
ドン
BONG
タカ
THUPPA

IT'S SO PRETTY.

...I CAN'T TELL HER HOW I FEEL.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...

IF SHE TURNED ME DOWN, IT'D MEAN WE'D NEVER SHARE A MOMENT LIKE THIS AGAIN.

AND I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

SQUEEZE

ギュッ

THE MORE TIME I SPEND WITH HER... THE MORE I LIKE HER.

YEAH.

AH...

I HOPE... THIS NIGHT NEVER ENDS.

ドキ

THUMP

ドキ

THUMP

ニヤリ

GRIN

I...

...LOVE YOU, ASAHINA...

WHAT?

WH—

GIVE ME A BREAK!

HUH?

DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D FALL FOR A JOKE LIKE THAT?

G-GEEZ, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

GOTTA DO SOMETHING...

ドクン!

THUMP

NO... I...

DAMN IT! WHAT AM I SAYING?

ドクン!

THUMP

AND WE CAN STILL HANG OUT LIKE THIS.

SQUINCH

IF I KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT, I CAN JUST PLAY IT OFF AS A JOKE!

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!

I'M NOT KIDDING!

...THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.

SINCE...

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 4

HONOKA SAKURAI
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—SEPTEMBER 16
(VIRGO)
HEIGHT—5'5"
WEIGHT—?
BLOOD TYPE—A
MEASUREMENTS—32", 22", 33"

LIKES
- AKITSUKI-KUN
- THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA'S UDON
- BATHS

DISLIKES
- PLAYERS
- EXERCISE
- SQUISHY FOODS

IMAGE FLOWER—THE PANSY
(REMEMBER ME...)

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!

SINCE THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.

SUZUKA

#13 Heartbreak

...YOU BE MY GIRLFRIEND?

W-WILL...

TH—

カァ

BLUSH

TH—

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN.

I MEAN, WE'VE ONLY KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A MONTH, AND...

.....

WOO

WOO

...SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?

ARE YOU REALLY...

.....

SQUEEZE

ㅔㅣ

!

DONG

BADDA-

BADDA

SLOW DOWN!

LOOK, MOMMY! A KITTY!

HEY! STOP RUNNING!

...I'M SORRY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW I FELT.

YOU'RE RIGHT...! W-WE'VE ONLY KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A MONTH!

Y...

.....

.....

I'M REALLY SORRY...

WOO

WOO

AH.

W-WELL... SHOULD WE HEAD BACK? THE PARADE'S OVER.

IT'S NOT THAT HEAVY.

TH-THAT'S OKAY.

I'LL... CARRY THE BAG...

HUH?

...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO CARRY IT.

YEAH, BUT...

THANKS.

O-OKAY... HERE.

STEP

STEP

旭湯

ASAHIYU BATHS

……

コツ STEP

コツ STEP

……

カン STEP

カン STEP

カン STEP

Y-YEAH.

CREAK

WELL... SEE YA.

SLAM

SEE YA.

FWICK

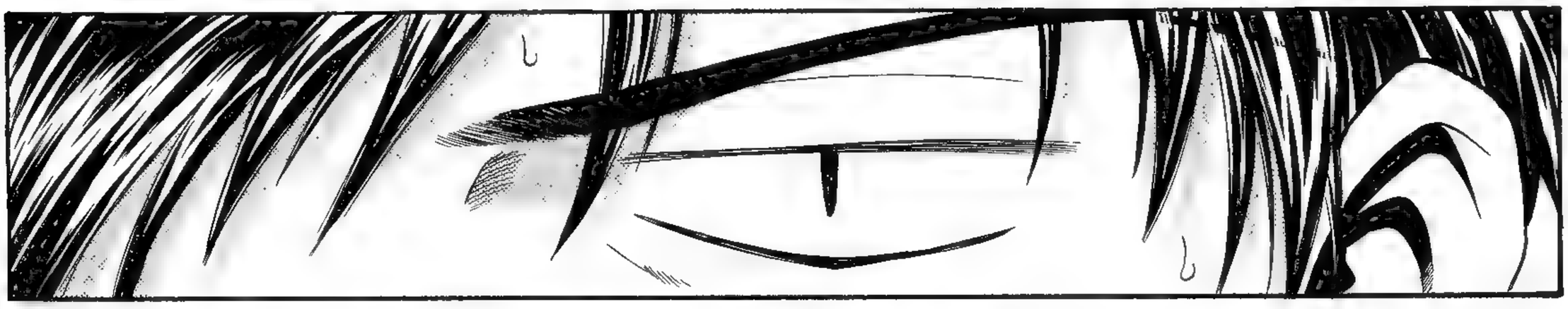
……

'SUP.

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

I HELPED MYSELF TO YOUR CHIPS.



YEAH.

WAS THE DOOR UNLOCKED?

UH... YEAH.

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

YOU GET THE NEWSPAPER HERE?

SHUT UP.

FWUPPA

LOW SALT

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

WHAT A WASTE OF MONEY. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL EVER READ ANYTHING BUT THE SPORTS PAGE AND THE...

...TV LISTINGS.

THAT'S YESTER-DAY'S PAPER.

WHOA! THE CARP WON THEIR TENTH GAME IN A ROW.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WON AGAIN.

THESE GUYS WON THE OPEN.

HMMM.

THE BRITISH OPEN

OH.

FLIP

. . . . . .

I WENT TO A THEME PARK WITH ASAHINA TODAY.

毎朝新聞
広島 10連勝
国際協力
イラク派
国土交

YEAH...

. . . . . .

SHE GOES... "I GUESS I COULD *LET YOU* TAKE ME."

BEATS ME...

AND GUESS WHAT SHE SAYS...

I GOT TWO FREE TICKETS FROM THE NEWSPAPER SALESGIRL, SO I ASKED ASAHINA TO GO WITH ME.

HIROSHIMA CARP'S TENTH STRAIGHT VICTORY
前田がキメた!!
毎朝新聞
...
FWUMP
ホゥ
ISN'T THAT LAME? I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO GO OR SOMETHING!
I WAS LIKE, IT'S NOT MY FAULT IT'S RAINING.
SO ANYWAY, WE WENT AND IT ENDED UP POURING DOWN RAIN. OUR SHOES GOT ALL SOAKED AND WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SEE THE PARADE. SHE BITCHED THE WHOLE TIME...
...
UH-HUH...
WE GO ON ONE SINGLE ROLLER COASTER RIDE, AND SHE'S LIKE, "I WANNA GO HOME".
ROLL...?
コロ
A... AND THEN...
HIMA CARP'S TENTH
HT VICTORY
前田がキメた!!
毎朝新聞

BUT THEN, I'M LIKE "FINE WHATEVER"...

...

SO I WAS LIKE, "WHY'D WE EVEN BOTHER COMING."

パサッ
FLIP

AND A FEW SECONDS LATER SHE'S ALL "LET'S GO ON ANOTHER ONE."

SO THEN SHE DRAGS ME AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE AND MAKES ME CARRY ALL HER BAGS AND STUFF.

THEN IT CLEARS UP, AND SHE'S LIKE "NOW WE CAN WATCH THE PARADE."

THAT CHICK'S CRAZY, MAN.

IT'S JUST A STUPID WASTE OF ELECTRICITY.

YEAH, RIGHT... WHAT'S SO COOL ABOUT SOME LAME-ASS PARADE?

BUT SHE'S ALL... "IT'S SO PRETTY."

...

FWUP

WELL...

GAH

CREAK

I'M OUTTA HERE.

THEY

SLAM

LATER.

CREAK

DON'T FORGET TO LOCK THE DOOR.

STEP

STEP

TCH...

WHAT DO I NEED WITH YOUR STUPID TISSUES?

SCHWIK

TRY AIBURU!

GIVE US A CALL. WOOF.

03-3XXX-00XX
042-5XX-52XX

I DON'T NEED 'EM, YOU IDIOT!

DRIP

DRIP

SNIFF

WELL...

HANG IN THERE.

JUST LISTEN TO ME.

BLAH

BLAH

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

I CAN'T STOP.

SNIFF

SHIT...

SHIT...

WHY THE HELL. AM I CRYING?

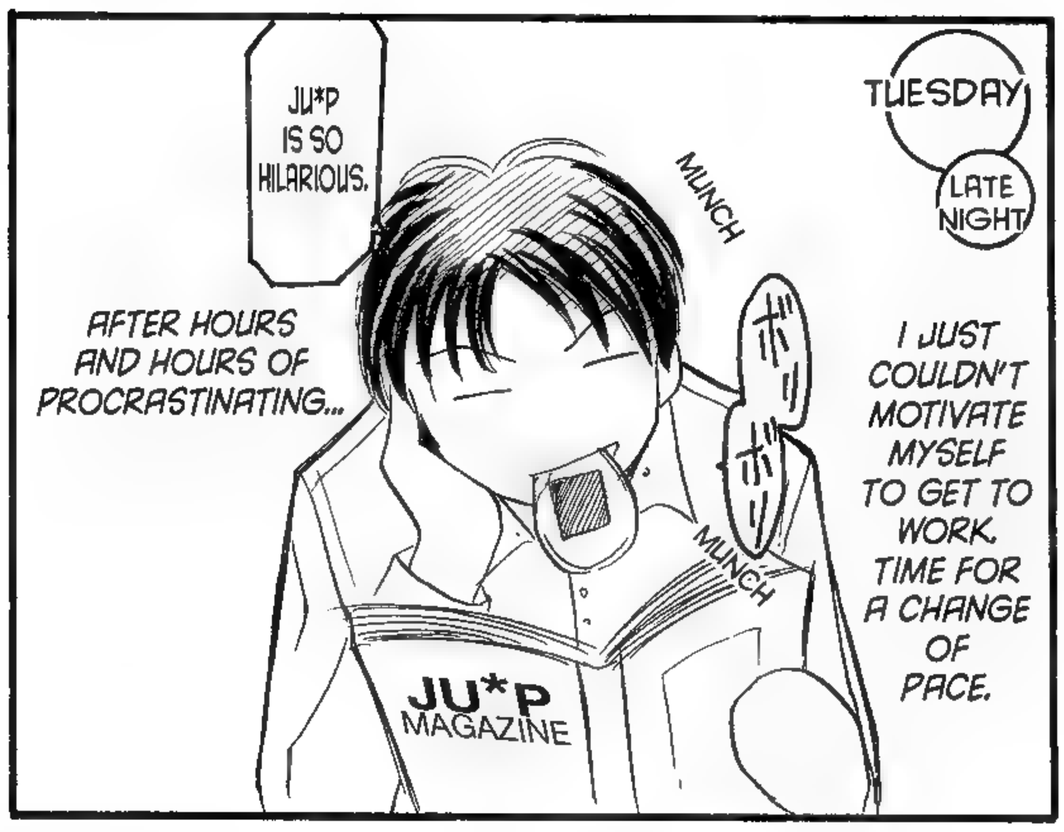
I'M SO PATHETIC.

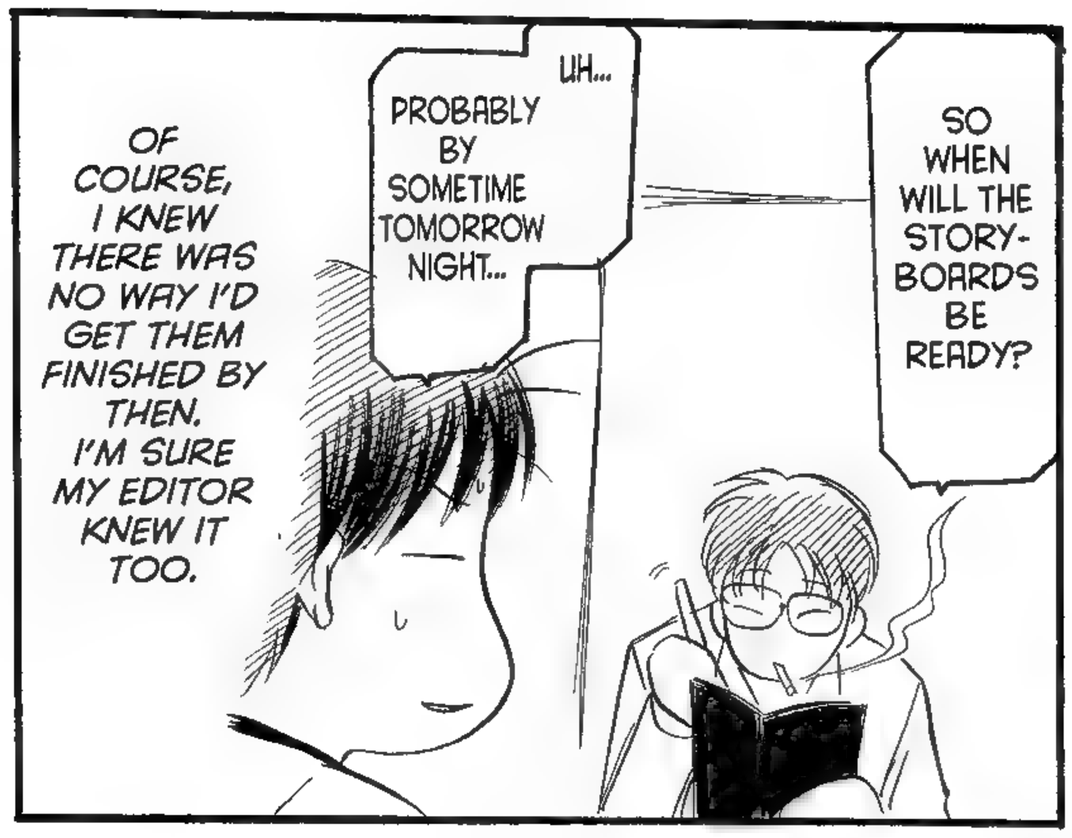
CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

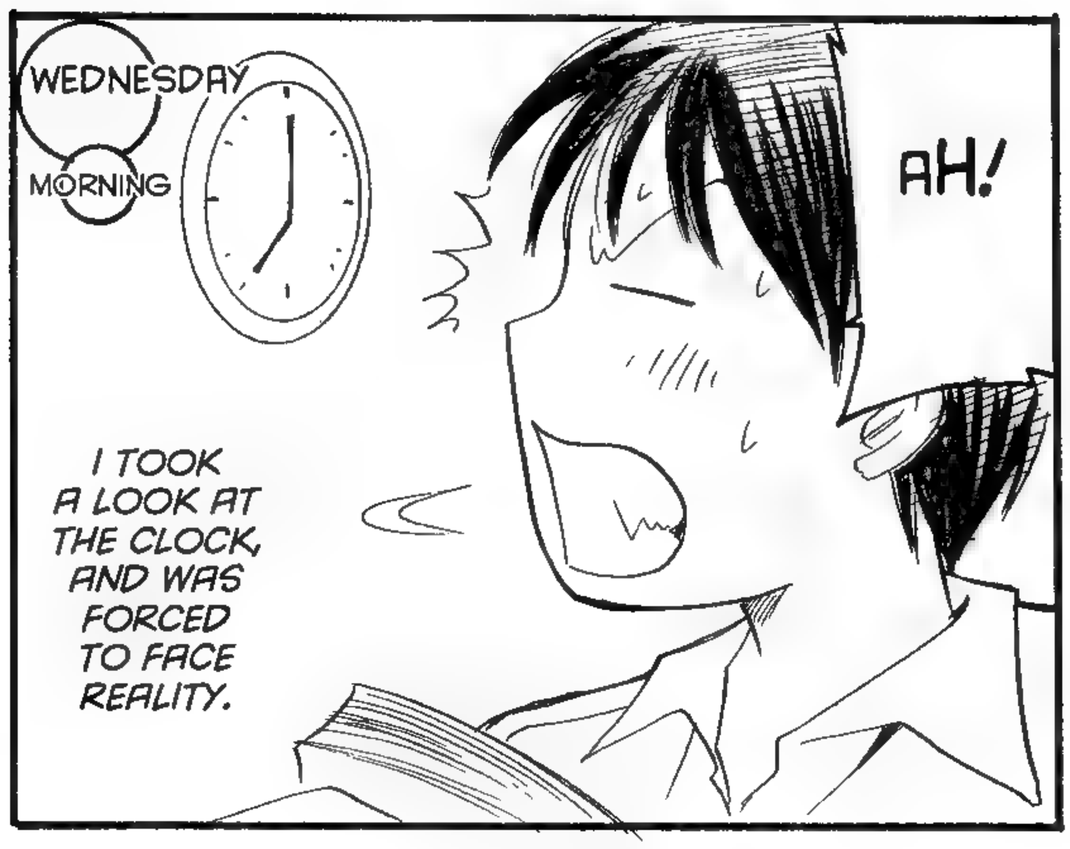
BONUS MANGA—A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF KOUJI SEO

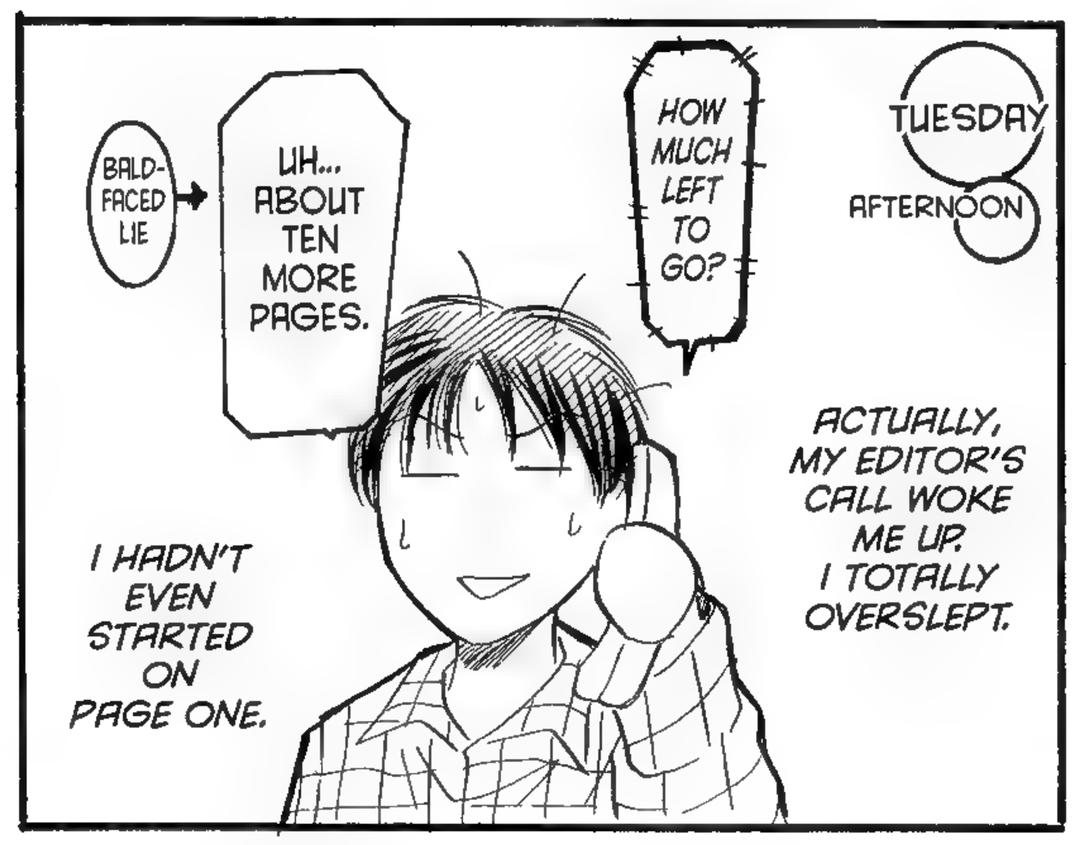
NO!
THIS IS REALLY BOR-ING!
TUESDAY
NIGHT
THE EDITORS CAME AT ME WITH MY STORY-BOARDS IN HAND.
SOME-TIMES THEY MAKE ME REDO THE ENTIRE THING.

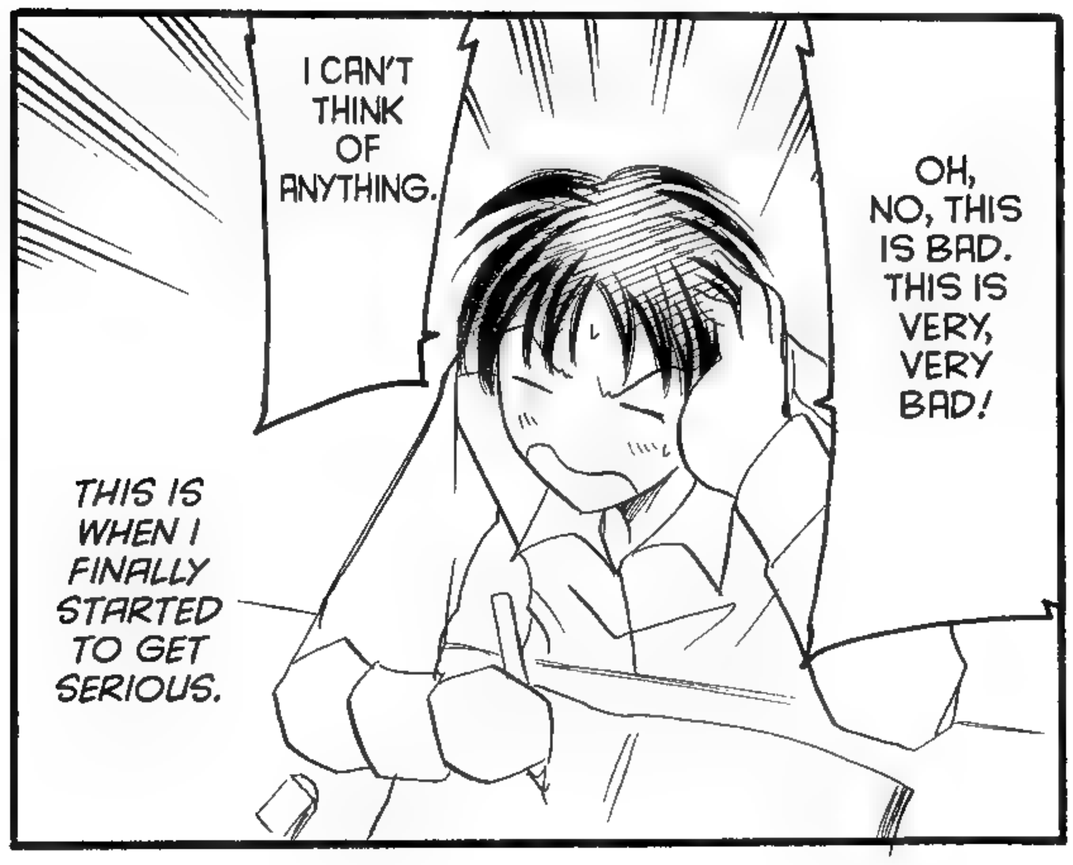
SCI-FI.
WHAT KIND OF STORY ARE YOU GONNA WRITE NEXT?
MONDAY
EVENING
A MEETING WITH MY EDITOR (AT MY HOUSE).
MY DUE DATE WAS CLOSING IN, SO I WAS A TOTAL MESS.
WHITE EYED


JU*P IS SO HILARIOUS.
TUESDAY
LATE NIGHT
MUNCH
MUNCH
AFTER HOURS AND HOURS OF PROCRASTINATING...
I JUST COULDN'T MOTIVATE MYSELF TO GET TO WORK. TIME FOR A CHANGE OF PACE.
JU*P MAGAZINE


UH...
PROBABLY BY SOMETIME TOMORROW NIGHT...
SO WHEN WILL THE STORY-BOARDS BE READY?
OF COURSE, I KNEW THERE WAS NO WAY I'D GET THEM FINISHED BY THEN. I'M SURE MY EDITOR KNEW IT TOO.




BALD-FACED LIE
UH... ABOUT TEN MORE PAGES.
HOW MUCH LEFT TO GO?
TUESDAY
AFTERNOON
I HADN'T EVEN STARTED ON PAGE ONE.
ACTUALLY, MY EDITOR'S CALL WOKE ME UP. I TOTALLY OVERSLEPT.



GIVING ME THAT "GO HOME ALREADY" LOOK.
GLANCE
TUESDAY
EVENING
MMMM...
I WOKE UP AT ABOUT FIVE P.M. AND WENT TO A FAMILY RESTAURANT.
AFTER ABOUT FOUR HOURS OF WORK I FINALLY FAXED OVER THE FINISHED STORY-BOARDS.

WAHHH!
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FRIDAY
NOON
OR
SATURDAY
AFTERNOON
I MANAGED TO INK ABOUT NINE PAGES BEFORE I MET UP WITH MY ASSISTANT.
I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT.
INK
I WAS FEELING PRETTY GOOD.

WHY DO I ALWAYS WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE.
WOBBLE
YAWN...
WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON
WOBBLE
THUMP
SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO FINISH IT ALL AND I FAXED IT IN AGAIN.

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WHITE EYED
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE BOSS, BUT MY ASSISTANT ENDED UP TAKING CARE OF ME.
GO GET SOME SLEEP, SENSEI.
SATURDAY
AFTERNOON
I FELT LIKE I WAS DYING.
MY ASSISTANT

OKAY.
MUCH BETTER, I THINK WE CAN GO WITH THESE.
WEDNESDAY
EVENING
WHENEVER MY EDITORS START NITPICKING ABOUT THE DETAILS I ALWAYS GET REALLY MEAN AND GRUMPY. POOR GUYS.
MY EDITOR CALLED AND SAID THE STORYBOARDS WERE OKAY.

HUH?
JUST DRAW SOME-THING COOL.
BE CREATIVE.
I GAVE MY ASSISTANTS REALLY LAME DIRECTIONS, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ME FROM COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR WORK.
SATURDAY
UP ALL NIGHT
MONDAY
AFTERNOON
MY BACK WAS TOTALLY KILLING ME BUT SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO FINISH UP THE LAST TEN PAGES.

THE CARP LOST!
SCRATCH
OH, MAN...
THURSDAY
AFTERNOON
SCRATCH
THE STORYBOARDS WERE APPROVED, BUT I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE INKING EVERYTHING.
I OVERSLEPT AGAIN.

MY EDITOR CAME BY.
ピンポーン
DING
DONG
I DID IT!
MONDAY
NIGHT
MISSION COMPLETE
NEXT WEEK I SWEAR I WON'T PROCRASTINATE.

CLICK
CLICK
I'LL JUST WRITE... SORRY, I CAN'T WORK TODAY.
THURSDAY
NIGHT
OR
FRIDAY
MORNING
I CHANGED OUR MEETING FOR FRIDAY AT NOON, TO SATURDAY.
I E-MAILED MY ASSISTANT.

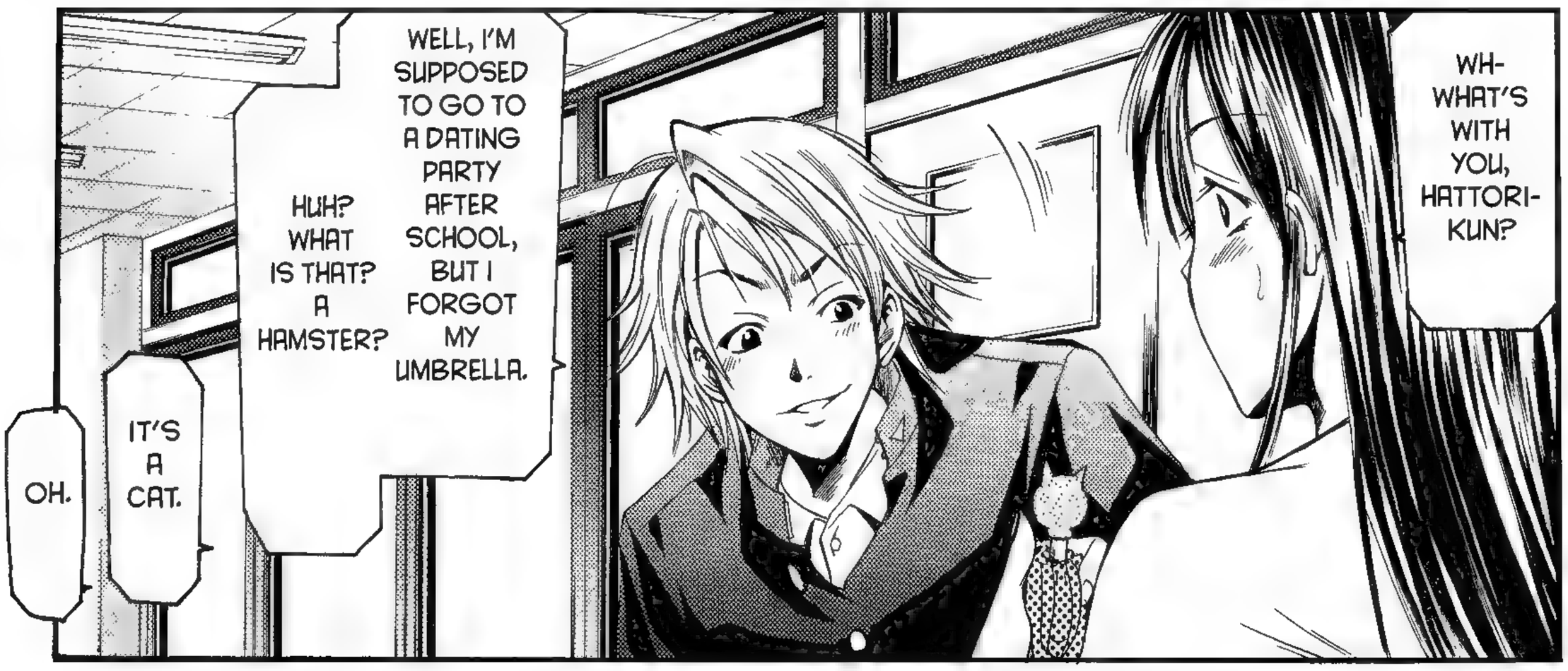
YEAH, RIGHT! I NEVER LEARN.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Dating party, page 31

Hattori is going to a dating party or *gokon.* This is a Japanese dating ritual in which an even number of guys and girls go out together on a date. It's sort of like a Japanese version of speed dating.

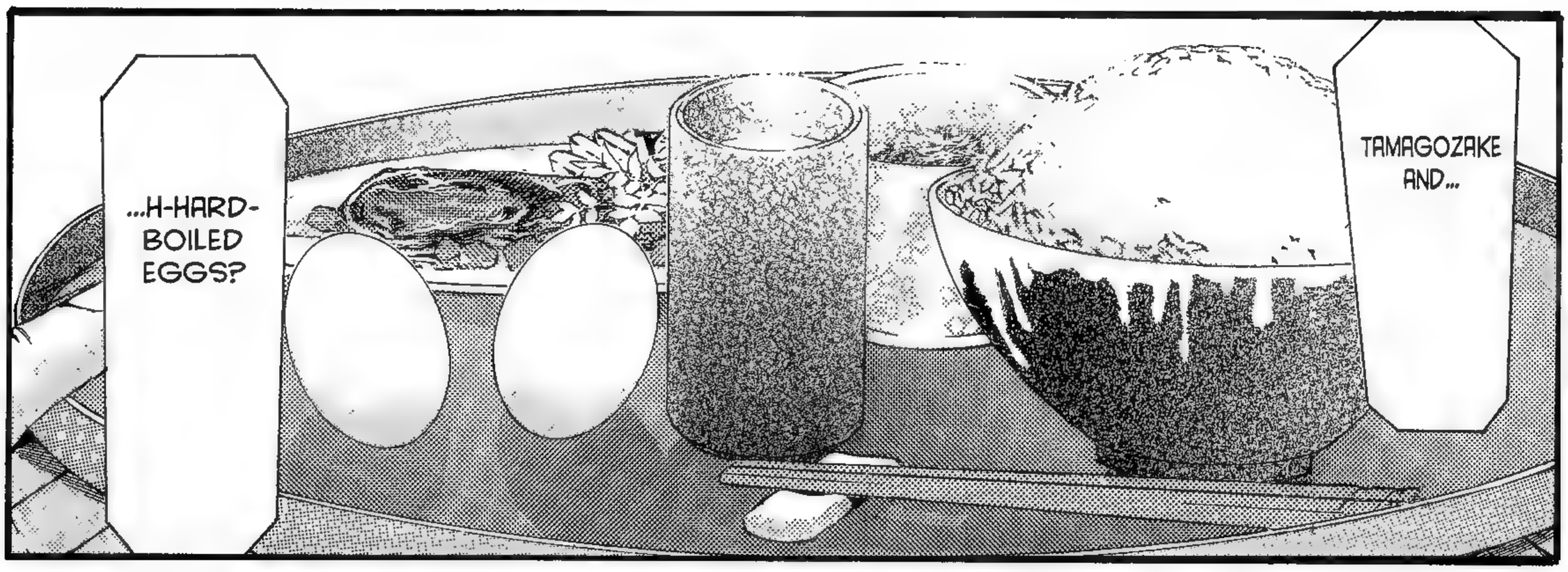

WELL, I'M SUPPOSED TO GO TO A DATING PARTY AFTER SCHOOL, BUT I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA.
HUH? WHAT IS THAT? A HAMSTER?
IT'S A CAT.
OH.
WH-WHAT'S WITH YOU, HATTORI-KUN?

Shoes in locker, page 34

In Japan, people customarily remove their shoes when indoors. In Japanese schools, students generally place their shoes in a locker and change into slippers for use in classrooms.

Tamagozake, page 57

Tamagozake is a traditional home remedy for colds consisting of raw eggs and sake.



Exploding hard-boiled eggs, page 61

In *Suzuka,* Volume 1, Asahina made "exploding" hard-boiled eggs and clumpy *tamagozake* for Yamato.

The Hiroshima Carp, page 70

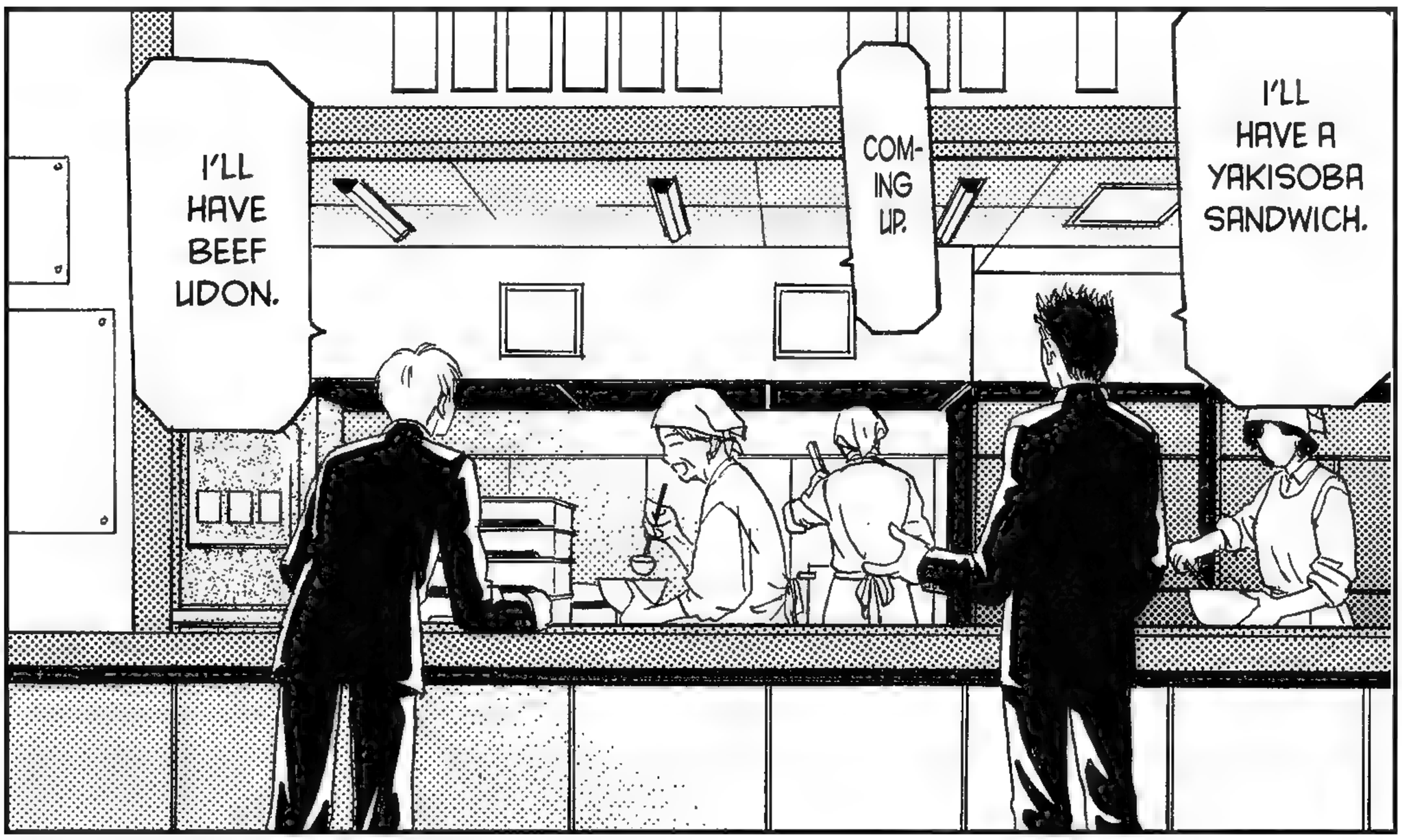
The Hiroshima Carp are a Japanese baseball team.

Karaoke box, page 70

Yamato and the gang are in a karaoke box. Karaoke boxes are private karaoke rooms rented by the hour. You get your own karaoke machine, and you can order drinks and snacks. This is the most popular type of karaoke in Japan.

Yakisoba and *udon*, page 109

Yakisoba is a popular fried noodle dish. *Udon* is a thicker noodle that's often eaten in soup.



Try Aiburu! page 179

Japanese companies often use tissue packages to advertise their services. The fictional company Aiburu is probably a takeoff on the Japanese money-lending company Aifuru.

Preview of Volume 3

We are pleased to present you with a preview of *Suzuka,* Volume 3. It will be available in English on February 27, 2007, but for now you'll have to make do with the Japanese version!

お――
待ってたぞ秋月!!
体力測定の時は
すごかったな――!!

ワイ

ワイ

いや――っ!!

ウチの小早川に
勝ったんだって!?

・・・・・・

短距離特待生
小早川健二くん

秋月
キミは何の種目を
選ぶつもりだ?

うん・・・
僕も
それがいいと思います
キャプテン

彼は短距離選手
向きです

えっと・・・
一応100mを

任せてください!!

オレ
頑張ります!!

よーし それじゃ
まずは男女別に
〝金魚のフン〟だ
男子は2組に
わかれろ――

ウィ――ス
んじゃ軽く流すか

ザッ
ザッ
ザッ
なんだ〝金魚のフン〟って一列でランニングすることか
ちょっとペースは速いけどこれくらいなら大丈夫だ！
宮本センパイこれ何周するんスか？
……
ハッ
ハッ
ハッ
さァな……
さァ…って……

え!?

ええ!?

もしかして
後(うし)ろからダッシュして
先頭(せんとう)に出(で)るんスか!?

次(つぎ)だぞ
秋月(あきつき)くん!

あ・・ハイ!!

マジかよォ!!
15人(にん)もいるのに!!

くそ――っ
追(お)いつけね――!!
みんな
ペース速(はや)い
っスよ――!!

これのどこが軽(かる)く
なんだよ――っ!!

ハ――ッ
ハ――ッ

け・結局(けっきょく)
ダッシュ10本(ぼん)・・

グラウンド
何周(なんしゅう)したか
覚(おぼ)えてねー・・

くそォ……

何(なん)でみんなヘーキな顔(かお)してんだよ……

アンタがベラベラ喋(しゃべ)りながらいい加減(かげん)な走(はし)り方(かた)してるから…

当然(とうぜん)でしょ

みんなペースが落(お)ちてるのよ！

……え…

迷惑(めいわく)だって言(い)ったでしょ!?

陸上部(りくじょうぶ)の足(あし)引(ひ)っ張(ぱ)んないで!!

あ…涼風(すずか)ァ！

……

秋月には特に厳しいなァ涼風！

え・・・ああ・・・

あ私羽柴美紀1年だよ

アンタのことは涼風からいろいろ聞いてるから

あ・朝比奈からって・・・友達？

こっからは種目別の練習ね私も短距離なの！

ホラ行くよ！

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the "feel" of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it's perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

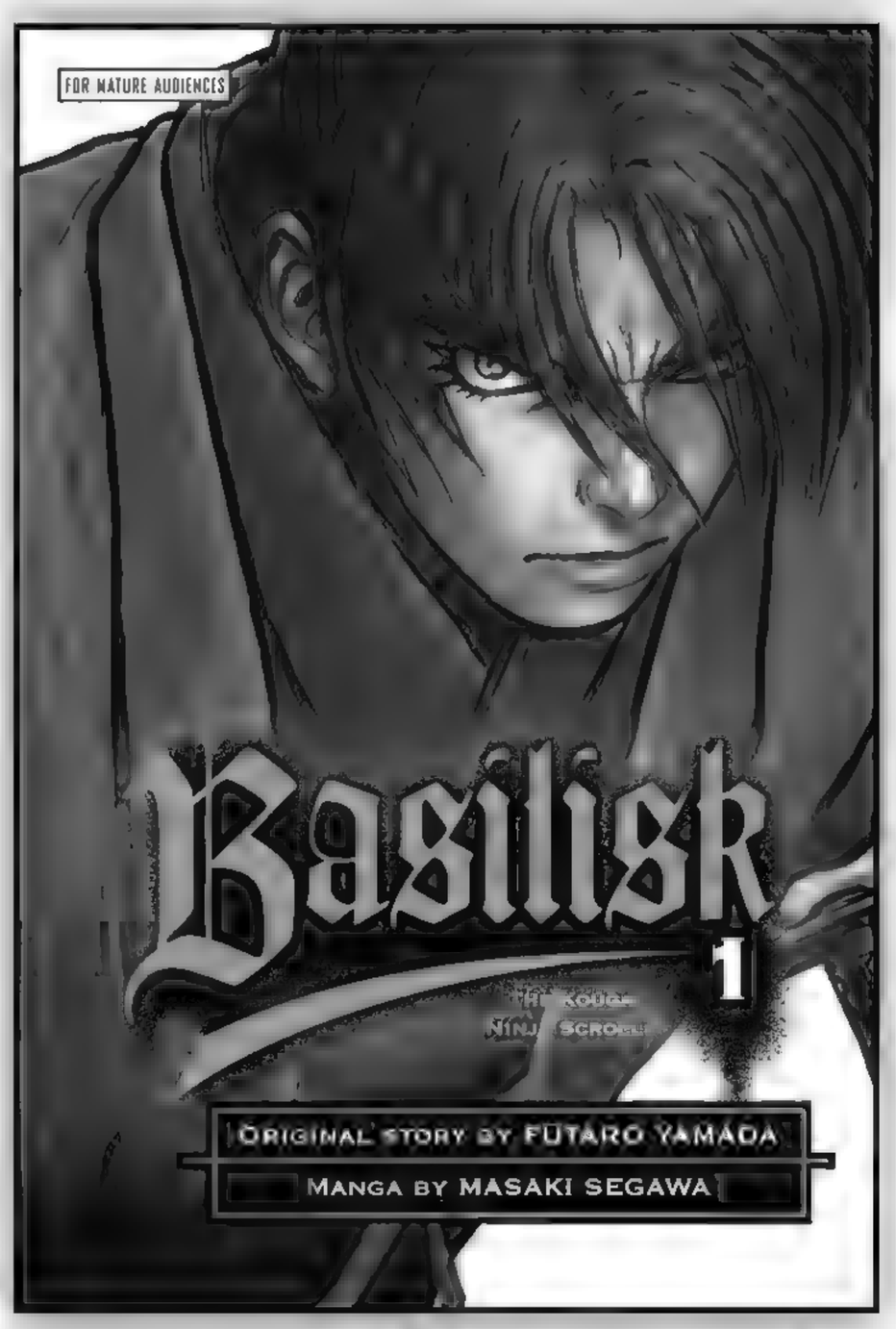
Basilisk

Original Story by Fūtaro Yamada
Manga by Masaki Segawa

THE BATTLE BEGINS

The Iga clan and the Kouga clan have been sworn enemies for more than four hundred years. Only the Hanzo Hattori truce has kept the two families from all-out war. Now, under the order of Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa, the truce has been dissolved. Ten ninja from each clan must fight to the death in order to determine who will be the next Tokugawa Shogun. The surviving clan will rule for the next thousand years.

But not all the clan members are in agreement. Oboro of the Iga clan and Gennosuke of the Kouga clan have fallen deeply in love. Now these star-crossed lovers have been pitted against each other. Can their romance conquer a centuries-old rivalry? Or is their love destined to end in death?



Mature: Ages 18 +

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AIR GEAR

BY OH!GREAT

Itsuki Minami needs no introduction—everybody's heard of the "Babyface" of the Eastside. He's the strongest kid at Higashi Junior High School, easy on the eyes but dangerously tough when he needs to be. Plus, Itsuki lives with the mysterious and sexy Noyamano sisters. Life's never dull, but it becomes downright dangerous when Itsuki leads his school to victory over vindictive Westside punks with gangster connections. Now he stands to lose his school, his friends, and everything he cares about. But in his darkest hour, the Noyamano girls give him an amazing gift, one that just might help him save his school: a pair of Air Trecks. These high-tech skates are more than just supercool. They'll enable Itsuki to execute the wildest, most aggressive moves ever seen—and introduce him to a thrilling and terrifying new world.

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School Rumble

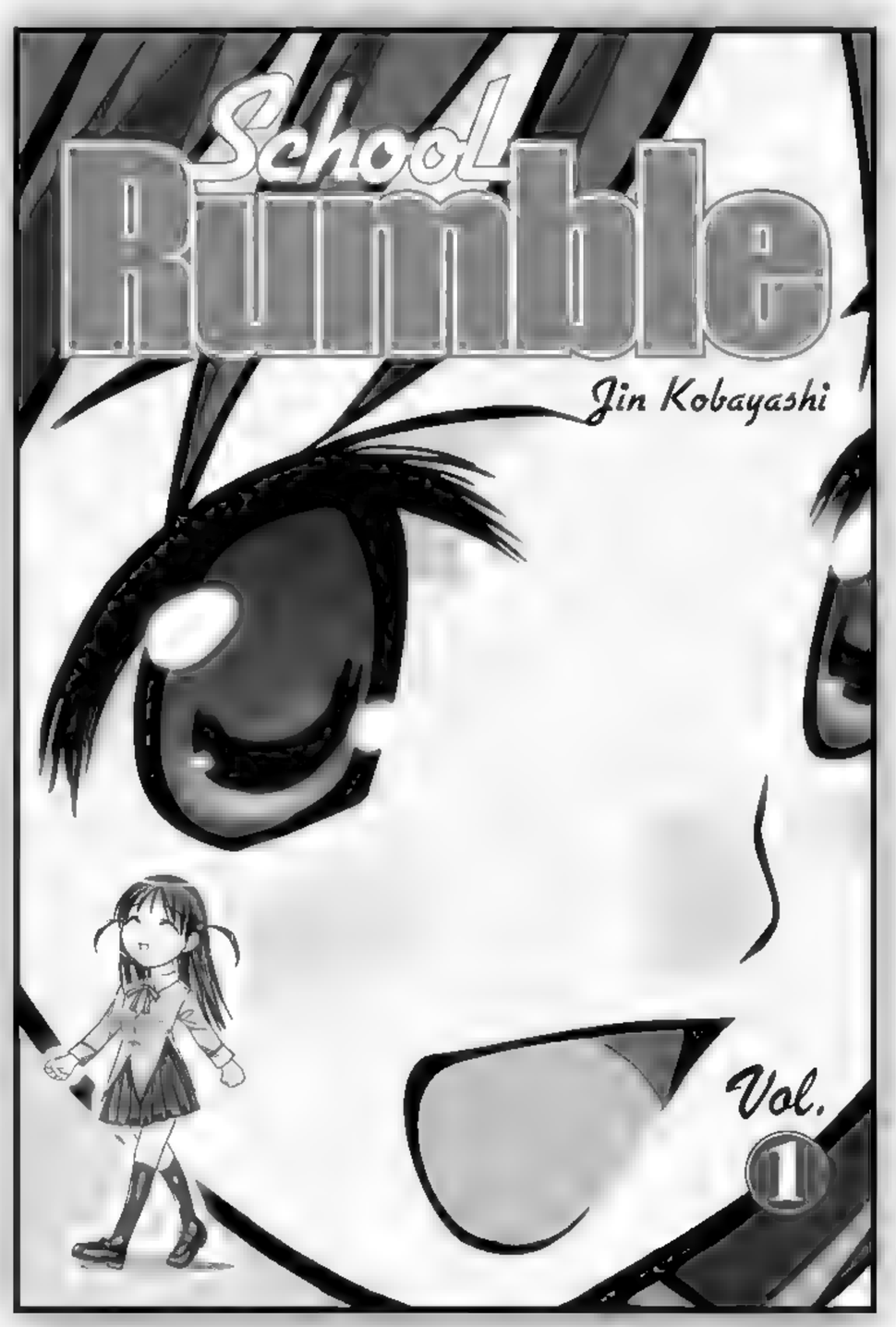
BY JIN KOBAYASHI

SUBTLETY IS FOR WIMPS!

She . . . is a second-year high school student with a single all-consuming question: Will the boy she likes ever really notice her?

He . . . is the school's most notorious juvenile delinquent, and he's suddenly come to a shocking realization: He's got a huge crush, and now he must tell her how he feels.

Life-changing obsessions, colossal foul-ups, grand schemes, deep-seated anxieties, and raging hormones—School Rumble portrays high school as it really is: over-the-top comedy!



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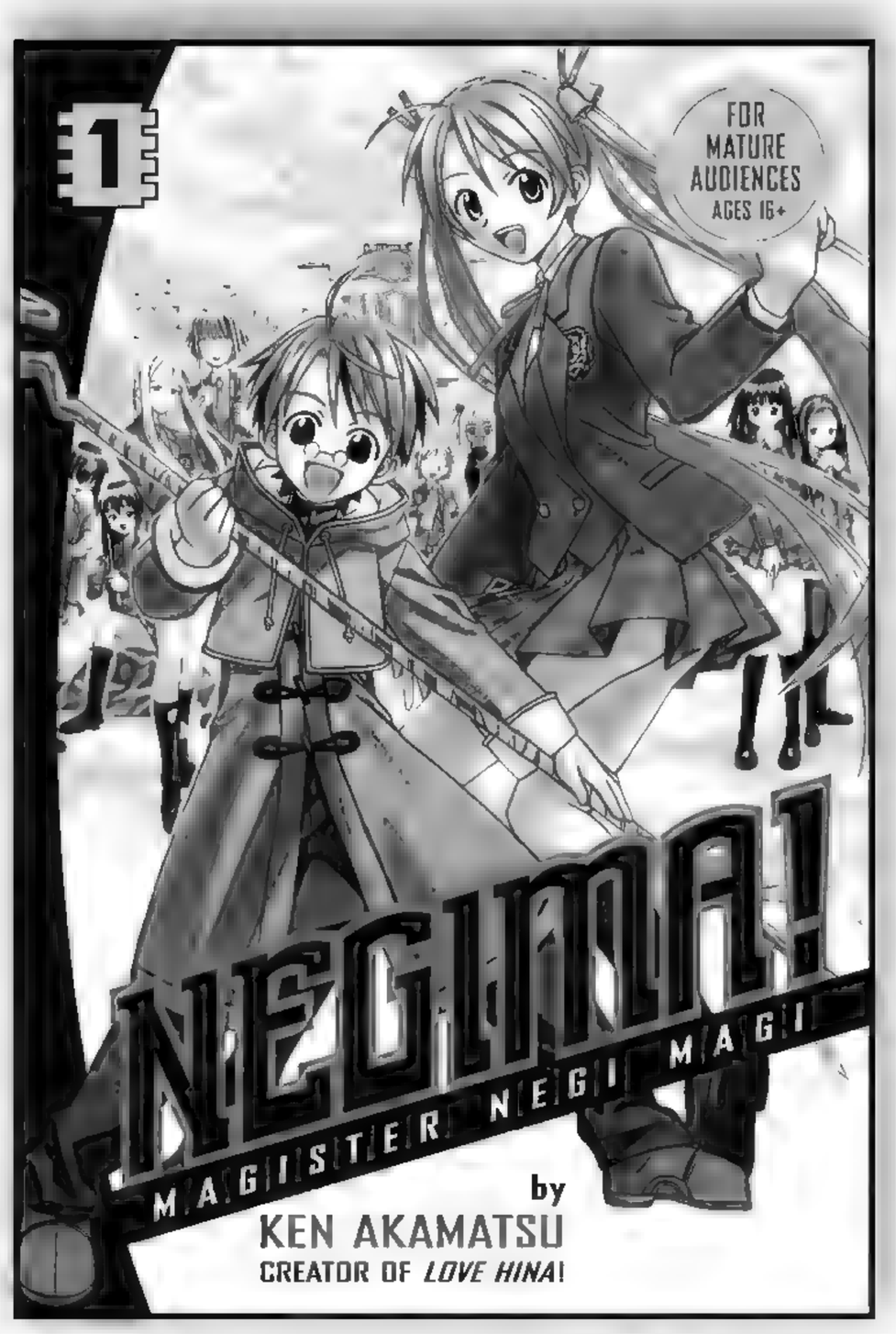
NEGIMA!™

BY KEN AKAMATSU

Negi Springfield is a ten-year-old wizard teaching English at an all-girls Japanese school. He dreams of becoming a master wizard like his legendary father, the Thousand Master. At first his biggest concern was concealing his magic powers, because if he's ever caught using them publicly, he thinks he'll be turned into an ermine! But in a world that gets stranger every day, it turns out that the strangest people of all are Negi's students! From a librarian with a magic book to a centuries-old vampire, from a robot to a ninja, Negi will risk his own life to protect the girls in his care!



Ages: 16+

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GHOST HUNT

Manga by Shiho Inada
Story by Fuyumi Ono

The decrepit building was condemned long ago, but every time the owners try to tear it down, "accidents" start to happen—people get hurt, sometimes even killed. Mai Taniyama and her classmates have heard the rumors that the creepy old high school is haunted. So, one rainy day they gather to tell ghost stories, hoping to attract one of the suspected spirits. No ghosts materialize, but they do meet Kazuya Shibuya, the handsome young owner of Shibuya Psychic Research, hired to investigate paranormal activity at the school. Also brought to the scene are an exorcist, a Buddhist monk, a woman who can speak with the dead, and an outspoken Shinto priestess. Surely one of them will have the talents to solve this mystery. . . .

Ages: 13+

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

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Kuro Gane

BY KEI TOUME

AN EERIE, HAUNTING SAMURAI ADVENTURE

Teen: Ages 13+

Avenging his father's murder is a matter of honor for the young samurai Jintetsu. But it turns out that the killer is a corrupt government official—and now the powers that be are determined to hunt Jintetsu down. There's only one problem: Jintetsu is already dead.

Torn to pieces by a pack of dogs, Jintetsu's ravaged body has been found by Genkichi, outcast and master inventor. Genkichi gives the dead boy a new, indestructible steel body and a talking sword—just what he'll need to face down the gang that's terrorizing his hometown and the mobster who ordered his father's hit. But what about Otsuki, the beautiful girl he left behind? Steel armor is defense against any sword, but it can't save Jintetsu from the pain in his heart.

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Suzuka 2

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